UNITED NATIONS HANDBOOK **2025–26**

AN ANNUAL GUIDE FOR THOSE WORKING WITH AND WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS HANDBOOK **2025–26**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Country names

The short names of UN Member States (as listed at www.un.org/en/about-us/member-states) are used throughout this Handbook. In addition, the following abbreviations are used.

Bolivia	Plurinational State of Bolivia
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DR Congo	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gambia	Republic of the Gambia
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Micronesia	Federated States of Micronesia
Moldova	Republic of Moldova
Netherlands	Kingdom of the Netherlands
ROK	Republic of Korea
Syrian AR	Syrian Arab Republic
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK or United Kingdom	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UR of Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania
USA	United States of America
Venezuela	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Other abbreviations

ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
GA	UN General Assembly
Res.	Resolution
SC	UN Security Council
UN	United Nations

SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
RT HON WINSTON PETERS

FOREWORD

Australia and New Zealand are delighted to introduce the 2025–26 *United Nations Handbook* – the 62nd edition of this invaluable resource.

Since it was first published in 1961, the Handbook has been a mainstay on the shelves of UN ambassadors, delegates and staff. As the United Nations has itself grown, so too has the need for a comprehensive reference that accounts for the many facets of this vital organization.

This latest edition of the Handbook arrives as we mark the 80th anniversary of the United Nations Charter. At a time when the UN system faces unprecedented challenges, it is our collective responsibility to embark on the task of fundamental and meaningful reform. It is in all of our interests to have a UN that is strong, effective, and capable of delivering for all its members. Working together, we must ensure the multilateral system remains resilient, adaptable and fit for purpose to tackle present and future challenges.

Australia and New Zealand's inaugural collaboration on this Handbook underlines our shared commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN and its founding Charter. Together, we recognize and commend the role of UN agencies and personnel in advancing global sustainable development, safeguarding fundamental human rights and promoting our collective peace and security.

At this critical juncture, it is more important than ever that we understand the full scope of what we have built together. The *United Nations Handbook* addresses this requirement by providing an accessible and accurate account of the UN's many institutions. We trust it will continue to be a useful resource, empowering all states to work together in advancing our shared endeavours.

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister of Foreign Affairs
AUSTRALIA

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs
NEW ZEALAND

WHAT THIS BOOK DOES

The United Nations Handbook is published by the Australian and New Zealand Governments as a ready reference guide. It provides current information about all the UN family organizations, including their purpose, evolution, structure, meetings and membership, where applicable. It is not intended to be a historical record.

The book has at its heart information about the six principal UN organs established by the UN Charter: the General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice and the Secretariat.

It also contains information about subsidiary organs established in accordance with the Charter, related UN organs and programmes, specialized agencies and autonomous bodies related to the UN, and various ad hoc organs and programmes. Some bodies are shown as subsidiary to or associated with one or other of the principal organs, while others are shown under the heading 'Other Bodies Subsidiary or Related to the UN'. The specialized agencies of the UN are included under this heading.

Non-governmental organizations with UN connections are not included; neither, generally, are other intergovernmental (but non-UN) organizations or political groupings.

All money values are in US dollars, unless otherwise stated.

Website, email and postal/physical addresses are included where possible, along with telephone and fax numbers. Agencies without specified contact details can be reached through UN Headquarters in New York:

United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 1234
Fax: +1 212 963 4879

The main UN website is www.un.org and many documents, including resolutions, can be found at docs.un.org.

The publishers are indebted to the UN bodies and agencies that provide considerable assistance each year to ensure the Handbook is as up to date and comprehensive as possible.

A PDF version of this book can be downloaded from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (www.dfat.gov.au) or from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (www.mfat.govt.nz).

THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM – PRINCIPAL ORGANS

SECURITY COUNCIL

Subsidiary Bodies

Counter-Terrorism Committee

International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT)

Military Staff Committee

Peacekeeping operations and special political missions

Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Sanctions committees (ad hoc)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies

Disarmament Commission

Human Rights Council

International Law Commission

Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

Main committees

Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Related Organizations

CTBTO Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

IAEA[1] International Atomic Energy Agency

ICC International Criminal Court

IOM[1] International Organization for Migration

ISA International Seabed Authority

ITLOS International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

OPCW Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

WTO[1] World Trade Organization

Peacebuilding Commission

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL[4]

Funds and Programmes[1]

UNDP UN Development Programme

- **UNCDF** UN Capital Development Fund
- **UNV** UN Volunteers

UNEP[6] UN Environment Programme

UNFPA UN Population Fund

UN-Habitat[6] UN Human Settlements Programme

UNICEF UN Children's Fund

WFP World Food Programme (UN/FAO)

Research and Training

UNIDIR UN Institute for Disarmament Research

UNITAR UN Institute for Training and Research

UNSSC UN System Staff College

UNU UN University

Other UN Entities

ITC International Trade Centre (UN/WTO)

UNCTAD[1,6] UN Trade and Development

UNHCR[1] Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNOPS[1] UN Office for Project Services

UNRWA[1] UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UN-Women[1] UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

HLPF High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Notes

1 Members of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

2 UN Office for Partnerships is the UN's focal point vis-a-vis the United Nations Foundation, Inc.

3 These organizations are separate and independent from the UN. They have been brought into relationship with the UN through relationship agreements.

4 The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994 with the independence of Palau, the last remaining UN Trust Territory, on 1 October 1994.

5 International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not specialized agencies in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter, but are part of the World Bank Group.

6 The secretariats of these organs are part of the UN Secretariat.

7 The Secretariat also includes other offices. For a list, see un.org/about-us/secretariat

8 For a complete list of ECOSOC Subsidiary Bodies see un.org/ecosoc

9 HLPF was established by the General Assembly. Meetings of HLPF are separately convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC.

As illustrated, some UN organizations have linkages to more than one principal organ. For example, General Assembly Programmes and Funds, Research and Training Institutes, Other Entities and HLPF also have linkages with ECOSOC.

This is not an official UN document, nor is it intended to be all-inclusive.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

Specialized Agencies[1, 3]

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO International Labour Organization

IMF International Monetary Fund

IMO International Maritime Organization

ITU International Telecommunication Union

UNESCO UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNIDO UN Industrial Development Organization

UN Tourism World Tourism Organization

UPU Universal Postal Union

WHO World Health Organization

WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization

WMO World Meteorological Organization

World Bank Group[5]

- **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- **IDA** International Development Association
- **IFC** International Finance Corporation

Functional Commissions

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Narcotic Drugs

Population and Development

Science and Technology for Development

Social Development

Statistics

Status of Women

UN Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions[6]

ECA Economic Commission for Africa

ECE Economic Commission for Europe

ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCWA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies[8]

Committee for Development Policy

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

UNAIDS Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNGEGN UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names

UN-GGIM UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Other sessional and standing committees and expert, ad hoc and related bodies

Research and Training

UNICRI UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

UNRISD UN Research Institute for Social Development

SECRETARIAT

Departments and Offices[7]

EOSG Executive Office of the Secretary-General

DCO Development Coordination Office

DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs

DGACM Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

DGC Department of Global Communications

DMSPC Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

DOS Department of Operational Support

DPO Department of Peace Operations

DPPA Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ODET Office of Digital and Emerging Technologies

OHCHR Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

OIOS Office of Internal Oversight Services

OLA Office of Legal Affairs

OSAA Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

OSRSG-CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

OSRSG-SVC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

OSRSG-VAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

UNDRR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDSS Department of Safety and Security

UNOCT Office of Counter-Terrorism

UNODA Office for Disarmament Affairs

UNODC[1] UN Office on Drugs and Crime

UNOG UN Office at Geneva

UN-OHRLLS Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

UNON UN Office at Nairobi

UNOOSA UN Office for Outer Space Affairs

UN Partnerships[2] UN Office for Partnerships

UNOV UN Office at Vienna

UN Youth UN Youth Office

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Website: www.un.org/en/ga

CHARTER PROVISIONS

The General Assembly was established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly consists of all UN Member States and may discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organ provided for in the Charter. It may make recommendations to UN members or the Security Council or both on any such questions or matters, except disputes or situations in respect of which the Security Council is currently exercising its functions.

General Assembly decisions are generally made by consensus. Where decisions are voted, they are made by a majority of the members present and voting unless it is considered an important question. Decisions on important questions are made by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. Important questions requiring a two-thirds majority are listed in Article 18 of the Charter. This Article also provides that decisions on other questions, including the determination of additional categories of questions to be decided by a two-thirds majority, are made by a simple majority. Each country has one vote. Members may be suspended in some circumstances, and members in arrears of payment may lose their right to vote.

The General Assembly receives and considers reports from the other organs of the UN.

It elects the 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council and the 54 members of the Economic and Social Council. Together with the Security Council, but voting independently, it elects the members of the International Court of Justice. On the recommendation of the Security Council, it appoints the Secretary-General. The General Assembly considers and approves the regular budgets of the UN and apportions expenses among members.

The Charter provisions concerning the General Assembly are contained in Chapter IV (Articles 9–22), which defines its composition, functions and powers, voting and procedures. Other provisions relating to the General Assembly are contained in Articles 1, 2, 4–7, 23, 24, 35, 60–64, 66, 85–88, 93, 96, 97, 98, 101, 105, 108 and 109 of the Charter, and Articles 4, 7–15, 32, 33 and 69 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 July 2025, 193 states were represented in the General Assembly. These states, together with their dates of admission to the UN, are:

Afghanistan	19 Nov 1946[1]	Azerbaijan	2 Mar 1992
Albania	14 Dec 1955	Bahamas	18 Sep 1973
Algeria	8 Oct 1962	Bahrain	21 Sep 1971[2]
Andorra	28 Jul 1993	Bangladesh	17 Sep 1974
Angola	1 Dec 1976	Barbados	9 Dec 1966
Antigua and Barbuda	11 Nov 1981	Belarus	24 Oct 1945*
Argentina	24 Oct 1945*	Belgium	27 Dec 1945*
Armenia	2 Mar 1992	Belize	25 Sep 1981
Australia	1 Nov 1945*	Benin	20 Sep 1960
Austria	14 Dec 1955	Bhutan	21 Sep 1971

Bolivia	14 Nov 1945*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	22 May 1992[3]
Botswana	17 Oct 1966
Brazil	24 Oct 1945*
Brunei Darussalam	21 Sep 1984
Bulgaria	14 Dec 1955
Burkina Faso	20 Sep 1960
Burundi	18 Sep 1962
Cabo Verde	16 Sep 1975
Cambodia	14 Dec 1955
Cameroon	20 Sep 1960
Canada	9 Nov 1945*
Central African Republic	20 Sep 1960
Chad	20 Sep 1960
Chile	24 Oct 1945*
China	24 Oct 1945*[4]
Colombia	5 Nov 1945*
Comoros	12 Nov 1975
Congo	20 Sep 1960
Costa Rica	2 Nov 1945*
Côte d'Ivoire	20 Sep 1960
Croatia	22 May 1992[3]
Cuba	24 Oct 1945*
Cyprus	20 Sep 1960
Czechia	19 Jan 1993*[5]
DPRK	17 Sep 1991
DR Congo	20 Sep 1960
Denmark	24 Oct 1945*
Djibouti	20 Sep 1977
Dominica	18 Dec 1978
Dominican Republic	24 Oct 1945*
Ecuador	21 Dec 1945
Egypt	24 Oct 1945*
El Salvador	24 Oct 1945*
Equatorial Guinea	12 Nov 1968
Eritrea	28 May 1993
Estonia	17 Sep 1991
Eswatini	24 Sep 1968[6]
Ethiopia	13 Nov 1945*
Fiji	13 Oct 1970
Finland	14 Dec 1955
France	24 Oct 1945*
Gabon	20 Sep 1960
Gambia	21 Sep 1965
Georgia	31 Jul 1992
Germany	18 Sep 1973[7]
Ghana	8 Mar 1957
Greece	25 Oct 1945*
Grenada	17 Sep 1974
Guatemala	21 Nov 1945*
Guinea	12 Dec 1958
Guinea-Bissau	17 Sep 1974
Guyana	20 Sep 1966
Haiti	24 Oct 1945*
Honduras	17 Dec 1945*
Hungary	14 Dec 1955
Iceland	19 Nov 1946
India	30 Oct 1945*
Indonesia	28 Sep 1950[8]
Iran	24 Oct 1945*
Iraq	21 Dec 1945*
Ireland	14 Dec 1955
Israel	11 May 1949
Italy	14 Dec 1955
Jamaica	18 Sep 1962
Japan	18 Dec 1956
Jordan	14 Dec 1955
Kazakhstan	2 Mar 1992
Kenya	16 Dec 1963
Kiribati	14 Sep 1999
Kuwait	14 May 1963
Kyrgyzstan	2 Mar 1992
Lao PDR	14 Dec 1955
Latvia	17 Sep 1991
Lebanon	24 Oct 1945*
Lesotho	17 Oct 1966
Liberia	2 Nov 1945*
Libya	14 Dec 1955[9]
Liechtenstein	18 Sep 1990
Lithuania	17 Sep 1991
Luxembourg	24 Oct 1945*
Madagascar	20 Sep 1960
Malawi	1 Dec 1964
Malaysia	17 Sep 1957
Maldives	21 Sep 1965
Mali	28 Sep 1960
Malta	1 Dec 1964
Marshall Islands	17 Sep 1991

Mauritania	27 Oct 1961
Mauritius	24 Apr 1968
Mexico	7 Nov 1945*
Micronesia	17 Sep 1991
Monaco	28 May 1993
Mongolia	27 Oct 1961
Montenegro	28 Jun 2006[3]
Morocco	12 Nov 1956
Mozambique	16 Sep 1975
Myanmar	19 Apr 1948
Namibia	23 Apr 1990
Nauru	14 Sep 1999
Nepal	14 Dec 1955
Netherlands	10 Dec 1945*
New Zealand	24 Oct 1945*
Nicaragua	24 Oct 1945*
Niger	20 Sep 1960
Nigeria	7 Oct 1960
North Macedonia	8 Apr 1993[3]
Norway	27 Nov 1945*
Oman	7 Oct 1971
Pakistan	30 Sep 1947
Palau	15 Dec 1994
Panama	13 Nov 1945*
Papua New Guinea	10 Oct 1975
Paraguay	24 Oct 1945*
Peru	31 Oct 1945*
Philippines	24 Oct 1945*
Poland	24 Oct 1945*
Portugal	14 Dec 1955
Qatar	21 Sep 1971
ROK	17 Sep 1991
Republic of Moldova	2 Mar 1992
Romania	14 Dec 1955
Russian Federation	24 Oct 1945*[10]
Rwanda	18 Sep 1962
Saint Kitts and Nevis	23 Sep 1983
Saint Lucia	18 Sep 1979
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	16 Sep 1980
Samoa	15 Dec 1976
San Marino	2 Mar 1992
São Tomé and Príncipe	16 Sep 1975
Saudi Arabia	24 Oct 1945*
Senegal	28 Sep 1960
Serbia	1 Nov 2000[3]
Seychelles	21 Sep 1976
Sierra Leone	27 Sep 1961
Singapore	21 Sep 1965
Slovakia	19 Jan 1993*[5]
Slovenia	22 May 1992[3]
Solomon Islands	19 Sep 1978
Somalia	20 Sep 1960
South Africa	7 Nov 1945*
South Sudan	14 July 2011[11]
Spain	14 Dec 1955
Sri Lanka	14 Dec 1955
Sudan	12 Nov 1956
Suriname	4 Dec 1975
Sweden	19 Nov 1946
Switzerland	10 Sep 2002
Syrian AR	24 Oct 1945*[12]
Tajikistan	2 Mar 1992
Thailand	16 Dec 1946
Timor-Leste	27 Sep 2002
Togo	20 Sep 1960
Tonga	14 Sep 1999
Trinidad and Tobago	18 Sep 1962
Tunisia	12 Nov 1956
Türkiye	24 Oct 1945*[13]
Turkmenistan	2 Mar 1992
Tuvalu	5 Sep 2000
Uganda	25 Oct 1962
Ukraine	24 Oct 1945*
UAE	9 Dec 1971
UK	24 Oct 1945*
UR of Tanzania	14 Dec 1961[14]
USA	24 Oct 1945*
Uruguay	18 Dec 1945*
Uzbekistan	2 Mar 1992
Vanuatu	15 Sep 1981
Venezuela	15 Nov 1945*
Viet Nam	20 Sep 1977
Yemen	30 Sep 1947[15]
Zambia	1 Dec 1964
Zimbabwe	25 Aug 1980

Notes

* Original members, that is, those that participated in the UN Conference on International Organization at San Francisco or had previously signed the UN Declaration of 1 January 1942, and that signed and ratified the Charter. Although Poland was not represented at San Francisco, it was agreed that it should sign the Charter subsequently as an original member.

1 On 22 December 2001, the Islamic State of Afghanistan informed the UN it had changed its name to Afghanistan.

2 On 14 February 2002, the State of Bahrain informed the UN it had changed its name to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

3 The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was an original member of the UN (the Charter having been signed on its behalf on 26 June 1945 and ratified on 19 October 1945) until its dissolution following the establishment and subsequent admission as new members of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia did not automatically succeed to memberships held by the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On 4 February 2003, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia informed the UN that it had changed its name to Serbia and Montenegro. On 3 June 2006, the Republic of Serbia notified the UN that the membership of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro in the UN, including all organs and organizations of the UN system, was continued by the Republic of Serbia on the basis of Article 60 of the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro, activated by the Declaration of Independence adopted by the National Assembly of Montenegro on 3 June 2006. The Republic of Montenegro was admitted as a member of the UN on 28 June 2006. In February 2008, the Assembly of Kosovo declared independence although it has yet to seek UN membership. On 13 February 2019, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia informed the UN that it had changed its name to the Republic of North Macedonia.

4 By GA res. 2758 (XXVI) (1971), the General Assembly decided to restore all its rights to the People's Republic of China and to recognize the representatives of its government as the only legitimate representatives of China in the UN.

5 Formerly part of Czechoslovakia, an original member of the UN from 24 October 1945.

6 On 30 May 2018, the Kingdom of Swaziland informed the UN it had changed its name to the Kingdom of Eswatini.

7 Through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany, with effect from 3 October 1990, the two German states united to form one sovereign state. As from the date of reunification, the Federal Republic of Germany acts in the UN under the designation 'Germany'.

8 Indonesia withdrew from membership of the UN in 1965, but resumed full participation in 1966.

9 On 22 December 2017, the Permanent Mission of Libya to the UN formally notified the UN that the government was changing the official name of Libya to 'State of Libya'.

10 The USSR was an original member of the UN from 24 October 1945. In 1991, the Russian Federation informed the Secretary-General that the membership of the Soviet Union in the Security Council and all other UN organs was being continued by the Russian Federation with the support of the 11 member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

11 The Republic of South Sudan was admitted as the 193rd UN member on 14 July 2011.

12 Syria withdrew in 1958 to unite with Egypt as the United Arab Republic but resumed its independent status and separate membership of the UN as the Syrian Arab Republic in 1961.

13 On 3 June 2022, Turkey informed the UN it had changed its name to Türkiye.

14 Tanganyika was a member of the UN from 1961 and Zanzibar from 1963. After 1964, they continued as a single member, the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which later became the United Republic of Tanzania.

15 On 22 May 1990, Democratic Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen became a single sovereign state called the Republic of Yemen. Both had previously been members of the UN, Democratic Yemen since 14 December 1967 and the Arab Republic of Yemen since 30 September 1947.

Member States of the General Assembly and non-member states with permanent observer missions at UNHQ arranged in current regional groups

African states

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
DR Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea

continued next page

Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia–Pacific states

Afghanistan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
Cyprus
DPRK
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Lebanon
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Qatar
ROK
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Syrian AR
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
UAE
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam
Yemen

State of Palestine[1]

Eastern European states

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czechia
Estonia
Georgia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Montenegro
North Macedonia
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean states

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Western European and Other states[2]

Andorra
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Iceland
Ireland
Israel[3]
Italy
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
San Marino
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Türkiye[4]
UK

Holy See[5]

Notes

1 The State of Palestine was granted non-Member Observer State status in the UN following the passage of GA res. 67/19 (2012). It has Observer State status in the General Assembly but is a full member of the Asia–Pacific group.

2 The USA is not a member of any regional group but attends meetings of the Western European and Other states group (WEOG) as an observer and is considered to be a member of that group for electoral purposes.

3 Israel became a full member of WEOG on a temporary basis on 28 May 2000, and permanently in 2004.

4 Türkiye participates fully in both the Asia–Pacific group and WEOG but, for electoral purposes, is considered a member of WEOG only.

5 The Holy See became a Permanent Observer State at the UN on 6 April 1964. Its rights and privileges were expanded by GA res. 58/314 (2004). It is an observer of WEOG.

SESSIONS AND OFFICERS

RULES GOVERNING SESSIONS

The General Assembly meets in regular session each year starting on the Tuesday of the second week in September, counting from the first week that contains at least one working day (GA res. 75/325 (2001) amendment to rule 1 of the Assembly's Rules of Procedure). The general debate opens on the Tuesday of the fourth week in September and is held without interruption for nine working days. Sessions are held at UN Headquarters in New York, unless the General Assembly decided at a previous session to change the location or a majority of UN members has requested a change.

Special sessions may be summoned by the General Assembly at the request of the Security Council, or at the request or concurrence of a majority of UN members. Unless the date for a special session has been fixed by the General Assembly, it must be held within 15 days of the Secretary-General receiving the request or notification of concurrence. The Secretary-General must notify members at least 14 days in advance of the opening of a special session summoned at the request of the Security Council; otherwise 10 days' notice is required.

Emergency special sessions must be convened within 24 hours of the Secretary-General receiving a request from the Security Council, on the vote of any nine of its members or after a request or notification of concurrence from a majority of UN members. Members must be given at least 12 hours' notice.

The General Assembly elects its President and 21 Vice-Presidents in the months prior to the beginning of each annual regular session. Election is with regard to equitable geographical representation, as detailed in the Assembly's Rules of Procedure. The President and Vice-Presidents hold office from the start and until the close of the session they were elected for. The Assembly's Rules of Procedure established its General Committee (a procedural committee comprising the President and Vice-Presidents) and six Main Committees, and provide for other committees and subsidiary organs as the Assembly deems necessary.

SESSIONS AND PRESIDENTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SINCE 1946

1st Regular, 1946:
Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgium

1st Special, Apr 1947
Question of Palestine:
Oswaldo Aranha, Brazil

2nd Regular, 1947:
Oswaldo Aranha, Brazil

2nd Special, Apr 1948
Question of Palestine:
Jose Arce, Argentina

3rd Regular, 1948–49:
H V Evatt, Australia

4th Regular, 1949:
Brigadier-General Carlos P Romulo, Philippines

5th Regular, 1950–51:
Nasrollah Entezam, Iran

6th Regular, 1951–52:
Luis Padilla Nervo, Mexico

7th Regular, 1952–53:
Lester B Pearson, Canada

8th Regular, 1953:
Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, India

9th Regular, 1954:
E N van Kleffens, Netherlands

10th Regular, 1955:
Jose Maza, Chile

1st Emergency Special, Nov 1956
Suez Canal:
Rudecindo Ortega, Chile

2nd Emergency Special, Nov 1956
Situation in Hungary:
Rudecindo Ortega, Chile

11th Regular, 1956–57:
Prince Wan Waithayakon, Thailand

12th Regular, 1957:
Sir Leslie Munro, New Zealand

3rd Emergency Special, Aug 1958
Situation in Lebanon:
Sir Leslie Munro, New Zealand

13th Regular, 1958:
Charles Malik, Lebanon

14th Regular, 1959:
V A Belaunde, Peru

4th Emergency Special, Sep 1960
Situation in the Congo (Leopoldville):
V A Belaunde, Peru

15th Regular, 1960–61:
Frederick Boland, Ireland

3rd Special, Aug 1961
Grave Situation in Tunisia:
Frederick Boland, Ireland

16th Regular, 1961–62:
Mongi Slim, Tunisia

17th Regular, 1962:
Sir M Zafrulla Khan, Pakistan

4th Special, May 1963
Consideration of the Financial Situation of the Organization:
Sir M Zafrulla Khan, Pakistan

18th Regular, 1963:
C Sosa Rodriguez, Venezuela

19th Regular, 1964–65:
Alex Quaison-Sackey, Ghana

20th Regular, 1965:
Amintore Fanfani, Italy

21st Regular, 1966:
Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, Afghanistan

5th Special, Apr 1967
South West Africa and the Postponement to 1968 of the UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:
Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, Afghanistan

5th Emergency Special, Jun 1967
Humanitarian Assistance: Question of the Middle East:
Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, Afghanistan

22nd Regular, 1967–68:
Corneliu Manescu, Romania

23rd Regular, 1968:
E Arenales, Guatemala

24th Regular, 1969:
Angie Brooks, Liberia

25th Regular, 1970:
Edvard Hambro, Norway

26th Regular, 1971:
Adam Malik, Indonesia

27th Regular, 1972:
Stanislaw Trepczynski, Poland

28th Regular, 1973:
Leopoldo Benites, Ecuador

6th Special, Apr 1974
New International Economic Order:
Leopoldo Benites, Ecuador

29th Regular, 1974:
Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algeria

7th Special, Sep 1975
Development and International Economic Cooperation and Establishment of a New International Economic Order:
Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algeria

30th Regular, 1975:
Gaston Thorn, Luxembourg

31st Regular, 1976:
H Shirley Amerasinghe, Sri Lanka

32nd Regular, 1977:
Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslavia

8th Special, Apr 1978
Financing of UN Interim Force in Lebanon:
Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslavia

9th Special, Apr 1978
Namibia:
Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslavia

10th Special, Jun 1978
Disarmament:
Lazar Mojsov, Yugoslavia

33rd Regular, 1978–79:
I Lievano, Colombia

34th Regular, 1979–80:
Salim A Salim, UR of Tanzania

6th Emergency Special, Jan 1980
Situation in Afghanistan:
Salim A Salim, UR of Tanzania

7th Emergency Special, Jul 1980
Question of Palestine:
Salim A Salim, UR of Tanzania

11th Special, Aug 1980
Critical Economic Situation of Many Developing Countries:
Salim A Salim, UR of Tanzania

35th Regular, 1980–81:
Rüdiger von Wechmar, FR Germany

8th Emergency Special, Sep 1981
Question of Namibia:
Rüdiger von Wechmar, FR Germany

36th Regular, 1981–82:
Ismat T Kittani, Iraq

9th Emergency Special, Jan 1982
Situation in the Occupied Arab Territories, the Syrian Golan:
Ismat T Kittani, Iraq

7th Emergency Special (resumed), Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep 1982
Question of Palestine:
Presided over by: Ismat T Kittani, Iraq, Apr, Jun, Aug 1982
Imre Hollai, Hungary, Sep 1982

12th Special, Jun 1982
Disarmament:
Ismat T Kittani, Iraq

37th Regular, 1982–83:
Imre Hollai, Hungary

38th Regular, 1983–84:
Jorge E Illueca, Panama

39th Regular, 1984–85:
Paul J F Lusaka, Zambia

40th Regular, 1985–86:
Jaime de Pinies, Spain

13th Special, May 1986
Critical Economic Situation in Africa:
Jaime de Pinies, Spain

41st Regular, 1986–87:
H R Choudhury, Bangladesh

14th Special, Sep 1986
Namibia:
H R Choudhury, Bangladesh

42nd Regular, 1987–88:
Peter Florin, German DR

15th Special, May–Jun 1988
Disarmament:
Peter Florin, German DR

43rd Regular, 1988–89:
Dante M Caputo, Argentina

44th Regular, 1989–90:
Joseph N Garba, Nigeria

16th Special, Dec 1989
Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa:
Joseph N Garba, Nigeria

17th Special, Feb 1990
Question of International Cooperation Against Illicit Production, Supply, Demand, Trafficking and Distribution of Narcotic Drugs:
Joseph N Garba, Nigeria

18th Special, Apr 1990
International Economic Cooperation:
Joseph N Garba, Nigeria

45th Regular, 1990–91:
Guido de Marco, Malta

46th Regular, 1991–92:
Samir Shihabi, Saudi Arabia

47th Regular, 1992–93:
Stoyan Ganev, Bulgaria

48th Regular, 1993–94:
Samuel R Insanally, Guyana

49th Regular, 1994–95:
Amara Essy, Côte d'Ivoire

50th Regular, 1995–96:
Diogo Freitas do Amaral, Portugal

51st Regular, 1996–97:
Razali Ismail, Malaysia

10th Emergency Special, Apr 1997
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Razali Ismail, Malaysia

19th Special, Jun 1997
Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21:
Razali Ismail, Malaysia

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Jul, Nov 1997, Mar 1998, Feb 1999, Oct 2000
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Presided over by:
Razali Ismail, Malaysia, Jul 1997
Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine, Nov 1997, Mar 1998
Didier Opertti Badan, Uruguay, Feb 1999
Harri Holkeri, Finland, Oct 2000

52nd Regular, 1997–98:
Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine

20th Special, Jun 1998
Devoted to Countering the World Drug Problem Together:
Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine

53rd Regular, 1998–99:
Didier Opertti Badan, Uruguay

21st Special, Jun–Jul 1999
Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development:
Didier Opertti Badan, Uruguay

54th Regular, 1999–2000:
Theo-Ben Gurirab, Namibia

22nd Special, Sep 1999
Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:
Theo-Ben Gurirab, Namibia

23rd Special, Jun 2000
Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century:
Theo-Ben Gurirab, Namibia

24th Special, Jun 2000
World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalizing World:
Theo-Ben Gurirab, Namibia

55th Regular, 2000–01:
Harri Holkeri, Finland

25th Special, Jun 2001
Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Outcome of the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II):
Harri Holkeri, Finland

26th Special, Jun 2001
HIV/AIDS:
Harri Holkeri, Finland

56th Regular, 2001–02:
Han Seung-Soo, ROK

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Dec 2001, May 2002, Aug 2002
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Han Seung-Soo, ROK

27th Special, May 2002
Children:
Han Seung-Soo, ROK

57th Regular, 2002–03:
Jan Kavan, Czechia

58th Regular, 2003–04:
Julian Hunte, Saint Lucia

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Sep, Oct, Dec 2003, Jul 2004
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Julian Hunte, Saint Lucia

59th Regular, 2004–05:
Jean Ping, Gabon

28th Special, Jan 2005
Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps:
Jean Ping, Gabon

60th Regular, 2005–06:
Jan Eliasson, Sweden

61st Regular, 2006–07:
Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, Bahrain

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Nov, Dec 2006
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, Bahrain

62nd Regular, 2007–08:
Srgjan Kerim, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

63rd Regular, 2008–09:
Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Nicaragua

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Jan 2009
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann, Nicaragua

64th Regular, 2009–10:
Ali Abdussalam Treki, Libya

65th Regular, 2010–11:
Joseph Deiss, Switzerland

66th Regular, 2011–12:
Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Qatar

67th Regular, 2012–13:
Vuk Jeremić, Serbia

68th Regular, 2013–14:
John William Ashe, Antigua and Barbuda

69th Regular, 2014–15:
Sam Kutesa, Uganda

29th Special, Sep 2014
Follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014:
Sam Kutesa, Uganda

70th Regular, 2015–16:
Mogens Lykketoft, Denmark

30th Special, Apr 2016
World Drug Problem:
Mogens Lykketoft, Denmark

71st Regular, 2016–17:
Peter Thomson, Fiji

72nd Regular, 2017–18:
Miroslav Lajčák, Slovakia

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Dec 2017, Jun 2018
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Miroslav Lajčák, Slovakia

73rd Regular, 2018–19:
María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Ecuador

74th Regular, 2019–20:
Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Nigeria

31st Special, Jul 2020 (virtual until Dec 2020)
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):
Volkan Bozkir, Türkiye

75th Regular, 2020–21:
Volkan Bozkir, Türkiye

32nd Special, Jun 2021
Challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation:
Volkan Bozkir, Türkiye

76th Regular, 2021–22:
Abdulla Shahid, Maldives

11th Emergency Special, Feb, Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov 2022, Feb 2023
Ukraine:
Presided over by:
Abdulla Shahid, Maldives, Feb, Mar, Apr 2022
Csaba Kőrösi, Hungary, Oct, Nov, 2022, Feb 2023

77th Regular, 2022–23:
Csaba Kőrösi, Hungary

78th Regular, 2023–24
Dennis Francis, Trinidad and Tobago

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Oct, Nov, Dec 2023, May 2024
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Dennis Francis, Trinidad and Tobago

79th Regular, 2024–25:
Philémon Yang, Cameroon

10th Emergency Special (resumed), Sep, Dec 2024, Jun 2025
Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the Rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
Philémon Yang, Cameroon

11th Emergency Special (resumed), Feb 2025
Ukraine:
Philémon Yang, Cameroon

80th Regular, 2025-26:
Annalena Baerbock, Germany

80TH REGULAR SESSION: PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Session dates

From 9 September 2025. The General Debate was scheduled to open on 23 September.

President

Annalena Baerbock, Germany

Vice-Presidents

Representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russian Federation, UK and USA) and:

Andorra
Argentina
Bangladesh
Cabo Verde
DR Congo
Kenya
Lebanon
Lesotho
Maldives
Montenegro
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Timor-Leste
Tunisia
Venezuela

79TH REGULAR SESSION: PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

Session dates

From 10 September 2024. The General Debate was held from 24 to 30 September.

President

Philémon Yang, Cameroon

Vice-Presidents

Representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russian Federation, UK and USA) and:

Algeria
Angola
Austria
Barbados
Ghana
Guatemala
Italy
Kyrgyzstan
Madagascar
Micronesia
Moldova
Senegal
Thailand
Tonga
Turkmenistan
Venezuela

STRUCTURE

- Main committees
- Procedural committees
- Standing committees
- Subsidiary bodies

Treaty bodies established by human rights conventions also report to the General Assembly on their activities.

MAIN COMMITTEES

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees

Purpose

The Main Committees consider agenda items referred to them by the General Assembly and prepare recommendations and draft resolutions for submission to the General Assembly plenary. The Committees correspond with the General Assembly's major fields of responsibility:

- First Committee: Disarmament and International Security
- Second Committee: Economic and Financial
- Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
- Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization
- Fifth Committee: Administrative and Budgetary
- Sixth Committee: Legal.

Although it is usual practice to refer most items to a committee, the General Assembly may decide to deal with certain items without doing so.

Membership

All UN members have the right to be represented on each of the Main Committees. Each committee elects its chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

Decisions are made by a majority of the members present and voting. A majority of the committee constitutes a quorum.

Office holders 80th Regular Session (2025–26)

First Committee: Disarmament and International Security

Chair
Maurizio Massari, Italy

Vice-Chairs
Amr Essameldin Sadek Ahmed, Egypt
Jakub Jaros, Poland
Pawinrat Mahaguna, Thailand

Rapporteur
Ana Maricela Ávila Becerril, Costa Rica

Second Committee: Economic and Financial

Chair
Lamin B Dibba, Gambia

Vice-Chairs
Weronika Garbacz, Poland
Jenni Mikkola, Finland
Andrés Napuri Pita, Peru

Rapporteur
Javad Momeni, Iran

Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural

Chair
Cherdchai Chaivaivid, Thailand

Vice-Chairs
Katarina Andric, Croatia
Ginevra Oliva, Italy
Glentis Thomas, Antigua and Barbuda

Rapporteur
Edna Stephanie Williams, Ghana

Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

Chair
José Alberto Bríz Gutiérrez, Guatemala

Vice-Chairs
Josélyne Kwishaka, Burundi
Noel Novicio, Philippines
Raphael Ruppacher, Austria

Rapporteur
Dávid Sz Nagy, Hungary

Fifth Committee: Administrative and Budgetary

Chair
Zsuzsanna Horváth, Hungary

Vice-Chairs
Mohammad Taghi Amrollahi, Iran
Badreldeen Bakhit, Sudan
Erik Björk, Sweden

Rapporteur
Vadim Belloni, Chile

Sixth Committee: Legal

Chair
Leila Castillon Lora-Santos, Philippines

Vice-Chairs
Estela Mercedes Nze Mansogo, Equatorial Guinea
Lucia Teresa Solano Ramirez, Colombia
Marek Zukal, Czech Republic

Rapporteur
Wieteke Theeuwen, Netherlands

Office holders 79th Regular Session (2024–25)

First Committee: Disarmament and International Security

Chair
Maritza Chan Valverde, Costa Rica

Vice-Chairs
Abdulrahman Abdulaziz Al-Thani, Qatar
El Hadj Lehbib Mohamedou, Mauritania
Vivica Munkner, Germany

Rapporteur
Pēteris Filipsons, Latvia

Second Committee: Economic and Financial

Chair
Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Bangladesh

Vice-Chairs
Ezekwesiri David Anyaegbu, Nigeria
Gudrun Thorbjoernsdottir, Iceland
Ivana Vejic, Croatia

Rapporteur
Stefany Romero Veiga, Uruguay

Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural

Chair
Zéphyrin Maniratanga, Burundi

Vice-Chairs
Nur Azura Abd Karim, Malaysia
Ekaterine Lortkipanidze, Georgia
Mayra Lisseth Sorto Rosales, El Salvador

Rapporteur
Robin de Vogel, Netherlands

Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

Chair
Sanita Pavļuta-Deslandes, Latvia

Vice-Chairs
Sheikh Jassim Abdulaziz J A Al-Thani, Qatar
Hussein Hirji, Canada
Carmen Rosa Rios, Bolivia

Rapporteur
Makarabo Moloeli, Lesotho

Fifth Committee: Administrative and Budgetary

Chair
Egriselda Aracely González López, El Salvador

Vice-Chairs
Johanna Bischof, Austria
Szymon Mateusz Pekala, Poland
Surat Suwannikkha, Thailand

Rapporteur
Elaye-Djibril Yacin Abdillahi, Djibouti

Sixth Committee: Legal

Chair
Rui Vinhas, Portugal

Vice-Chairs
Ligia Lorena Flores Soto, El Salvador
Matúš Košuth, Slovakia
Ammar Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed, Sudan

Rapporteur
Yong-Ern Nathaniel Khng, Singapore

PROCEDURAL COMMITTEES

General Committee

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/general/general.shtml

Purpose

The Committee considers the General Assembly's provisional agenda, supplementary list and requests for the inclusion of additional items in the agenda, and the allocation of items to the Main Committees. It submits its recommendations to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The Committee assists the President in drawing up the agenda for plenary meetings, determining the priority of agenda items, coordinating the proceedings of the Main Committees and in the general conduct of the General Assembly's work that falls within the President's competence. It also makes recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the recess and closing dates of the session.

When discussing the inclusion or rejection of inclusion of an item in the agenda of the General Assembly, the Committee may not discuss the substance of any item unless it has a direct bearing on the inclusion or rejection of the item. It may not decide any political question.

Meetings

The Committee meets periodically to review the progress of the General Assembly and its committees. It also meets at such times as the President deems necessary or upon the request of any other of its members.

Membership

The Committee comprises the President of the General Assembly, as Chair of the Committee, the 21 Vice-Presidents and the six Main Committee Chairs. To ensure its representative character, no two members can be members of the same delegation.

Credentials Committee

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/credentials/credentials.shtml

Purpose

The Committee examines and reports to the General Assembly on the credentials of representatives of UN Member States. The credentials of representatives and the names of members of the delegation of each Member State are submitted to the Secretary-General and are issued either by the Head of the State or government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Any representative to whose admission a member has objected is seated provisionally in the General Assembly, with the same rights as other representatives, until the Committee has reported and the Assembly has given its decision. The Committee elects its own officers.

Membership

The Committee consists of nine members. They are appointed at the beginning of each session by the General Assembly on the proposal of the President.

Members appointed for the 79th session (2024–25)

Antigua and Barbuda (Chair)	Dominica	Monaco
Cabo Verde	Lao PDR	Russian Federation
China	Liberia	USA

STANDING COMMITTEES

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

Website: www.un.org/ga/acabq

Purpose

ACABQ examines and reports on the UN's regular and peacekeeping budgets, the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies, and auditors' reports on the accounts of the UN and its specialized agencies. The Committee also advises the General Assembly on other administrative and financial matters referred to it, and considers proposals by the UN Secretary-General for the establishment or extension of extrabudgetary positions at Director level and above, pursuant to GA res. 35/217 (II) (1980). ACABQ was set up at the first session of the General Assembly (GA res. 14 (I) A (1946)).

Meetings

The Committee holds three sessions a year (winter, spring and fall) for a total of 44 weeks.

Membership

The Committee has 21 members. They are appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee and on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience. The Committee includes at least three financial experts who may not retire simultaneously (GA Rules of Procedure, rules 155 and 156). Members serve in their personal capacity for three calendar years, retire by rotation and are eligible for reappointment. Membership has been expanded several times, most recently by GA res. 74/267 (2020).

Members (21)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Udo Klaus Fenchel, Germany (Vice-Chair)

Alexandra Arias, Dominican Republic[1]

Carlo Jacobucci, Italy (Vice-Chair)

Ji Haojun, China

Yukiko Nakagawa Matsuda, Japan

Minhong Yi, ROK

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Surendra Kumar Adhana, India

Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chad

Feliksas Bakanauskas, Lithuania

Ali Ben Said, Tunisia

Juliana Gaspar Ruas, Brazil (Chair)

Simon Horner, UK

Evgenii Kalugin, Russian Federation

Julia A Maciel, Paraguay

Caroline Nalwanga, Uganda (Vice-Chair)

Stephani Scheer, USA

Term ends 31 Dec 2027

Amjad Qaid Al-Kumaim, Yemen

Sharon Brennen-Haylock, Bahamas

Jakub Chmielewski, Poland

Djoh Paul Kpeye, Côte d'Ivoire

Katlego Boase Mmalane, Botswana

Note

1 Appointed in January 2025 to complete the term of Olivio Fermín, Dominican Republic, who resigned effective 31 January 2025.

Committee on Contributions

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/contributions/

Purpose

The Committee advises the General Assembly on the apportionment of UN expenses among members (Article 17 of the UN Charter), assessments for new members, appeals by members for a change of assessment and application of Article 19 in cases of arrears in the payment of assessments.[1] The Committee was established by GA res. 14 (I) (1946).

Meetings

The Committee meets annually for three to four weeks, usually in New York in June.

Membership

The Committee has 18 members. They are selected by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee and on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience. They serve for three calendar years, retire by rotation and are eligible for reappointment.

Membership has been expanded several times, most recently by GA res. 31/96 (1976). The Committee elects a chair, one or more vice-chairs and a rapporteur (GA Rules of Procedure, rule 103). Election is on the basis of equitable geographical representation, experience and personal competence.

Members (18)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025
Cheikh Tidiane Dème, Senegal
Gordon Eckersley, Australia (Vice-Chair)
Helena Concepción Felip Salazar, Paraguay
Bernardo Greiver del Hoyo, Uruguay (Chair)
Marcel Jullier, Switzerland
Joseph Masila, Kenya

Term ends 31 Dec 2026
Fu Liheng, China
Hae-yun Park, ROK
Denis Piminov, Russian Federation
Henrique da Silveira Sardinha Pinto, Brazil
Benjamin Sieberns, Germany
Cihan Terzi, Türkiye

Term ends 31 Dec 2027
Syed Yawar Ali, Pakistan
Jasminka Dinić, Croatia
George Hannum, USA
Ihor Humennyi, Ukraine
René Michel Mizingou-Nzaba, Congo
Yoriko Suzuki, Japan

Note
1 A UN member in arrears has no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may permit such a member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the member.

SUBSIDIARY AND AD HOC BODIES

INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Human Rights Council (HRC)

Secretariat of the Human Rights Council
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9220
Fax: +41 22 917 9011
Email: ohchr-infodesk@un.org or ohchr-hrcouncil@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNHRC
X: @UN_HRC

Extranet: https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/Pages/default.aspx
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/home

Purpose

The HRC is the principal intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner. It is mandated to consider violations of human rights, including gross and systemic violations, and to make recommendations. The HRC also promotes the effective coordination and mainstreaming of human rights within the UN system.

The HRC was established on 15 March 2006 by GA res. 60/251 (2006) and replaced the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

Structure

The HRC is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Among its elements are the:
- Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a peer review mechanism that assesses the human rights situations in all 193 UN Member States
- Advisory Committee, which serves as the HRC's 'think tank' to provide it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues

- Complaint Procedure mechanism, which allows individuals and organizations to bring complaints about human rights violations to the HRC's attention
- Special Procedures, which are expert groups and individuals who have fact-finding and reporting mandates to provide global coverage of major human rights issues.

Meetings

The HRC meets for at least 10 weeks a year in Geneva, over three regular sessions, which usually take place in March, June and September. It is able to convene special sessions at the request of a member and with the support of a third of members.

Membership

The HRC comprises 47 members elected by a majority of General Assembly members present and voting (at least 97 votes). In order for the rights of membership to be suspended, two-thirds of the full electorate is needed. Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. The standard term is three years, beginning 1 January and ending 31 December since 2013.[1] After two consecutive terms, members are not eligible for immediate re-election.

The Bureau consists of a president and four vice-presidents, representing the five regional groups. They are usually elected by the HRC in December for one calendar year.

Members (47)

	Previous[1]	Current
African states (13 seats)		
Algeria	2006–07 14–16	2023–25
Angola	2007–13 18–20	
Benin	2011–14 22–24	2025–27
Botswana	2011–17	
Burkina Faso	2008–14 19–21	
Burundi	2016–18	2024–26
Cameroon	2006–12 19–24	
Congo	2011–17	
Côte d'Ivoire	2013–18 21–23	2024–26
DR Congo	2018–20	2025–27
Djibouti	2006–12	
Egypt	2007–10 17–19	
Eritrea	2019–24	
Ethiopia	2013–18	2025–27
Gabon	2006–11 13–15 21–23	
Gambia	2022–24	2025–27
Ghana	2006–11 15–17	2024–26
Kenya	2013–18	2025–27
Libya[2]	2010–13 20–22	
Madagascar	2007–10	
Malawi	2021–23	2024–26
Mali	2006–08	
Mauritania	2010–13 20–22	
Mauritius	2006–12	
Morocco	2006–07 14–16	2023–25
Namibia	2014–16 20–22	
Nigeria	2006–12 15–20	
Rwanda	2017–19	
Senegal	2006–12 18–23	
Sierra Leone	2013–15	

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Somalia	2019–24	
South Africa	2006–10 14–19	2023–25
Sudan	2020–22	2023–25
Togo	2016–21	
Tunisia	2006–07 17–19	
Uganda	2010–13	
Zambia	2006–11	

Asia–Pacific states (13 seats)

Afghanistan	2018–20	
Bahrain	2006–07 08–11 19–21	
Bangladesh	2006–12 15–17 19–21	2023–25
China	2006–12 14–19 21–23	2024–26
Cyprus		2025–27
Fiji	2019–21	
India	2006–17 19–24	
Indonesia	2006–17 20–22	2024–26
Iraq	2017–19	
Japan	2006–11 13–15 17–22	2024–26
Jordan	2006–12	
Kazakhstan	2013–15 22–24	
Kuwait	2011–14	2024–26
Kyrgyzstan	2009–12 16–18	2023–25
Malaysia	2006–09 10–13 22–24	
Maldives	2010–16	2023–25
Marshall Islands	2020–22	2025–27
Mongolia	2016–18	
Nepal	2018–23	
Pakistan	2006–11 13–15 18–23	
Philippines	2006–10 11–14 16–21	
Qatar	2007–13 15–20 22–24	2025–27
ROK	2006–11 13–18 20–22	2025–27
Saudi Arabia	2006–12 14–19	
Sri Lanka	2006–08	
Thailand	2010–13	2025–27
UAE	2013–18 22–24	
Uzbekistan	2021–23	
Viet Nam	2014–16	2023–25

Eastern European states (6 seats)[3]

Albania	2015–17	2024–26
Armenia	2020–22	
Azerbaijan	2006–09	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2007–10	
Bulgaria	2019–21	2024–26
Croatia	2017–19	
Czechia	2006–07 11–14 19–23[3]	2025–27
Estonia	2013–15	
Georgia	2016–18	2023–25
Hungary	2009–12 17–19	
Latvia	2015–17	
Lithuania	2022–24	
Montenegro	2013–15 22–24	
North Macedonia	2014–16	2025–27
Poland	2006–07 10–13 20–22	
Republic of Moldova	2010–13	
Romania	2006–08 11–14	2023–25

Slovakia	2008–11 18–20	
Slovenia	2007–10 16–18	
Ukraine	2006–11 18–23	

Latin American and Caribbean states (8 seats)

Argentina	2006–07 08–11 13–15 19–24	
Bahamas	2019–21	
Bolivia	2007–10 15–17 21–23	2025–27
Brazil	2006–11 13–15 17–22	2024–26
Chile	2008–14 18–20	2023–25
Colombia		2025–27
Costa Rica	2011–14	2023–25
Cuba	2006–12 14–19 21–23	2024–26
Dominican Republic		2024–26
Ecuador	2006–07 10–13 16–18	
El Salvador	2015–17	
Guatemala	2006–08 10–13	
Honduras	2022–24	
Mexico	2006–12 14–16 18–23	2025–27
Nicaragua	2007–10	
Panama	2016–18	
Paraguay	2015–17 22–24	
Peru	2006–08 11–14 18–20	
Uruguay	2006–12 19–21	
Venezuela	2013–18 20–22	

Western European and Other states (7 seats)

Australia	2018–20	
Austria	2011–14 19–21	
Belgium	2009–12 16–18	2023–25
Canada	2006–09	
Denmark	2019–21	
Finland	2006–07 22–24	
France	2006–11 14–16 21–23	2024–26
Germany	2006–09 13–18 20–22	2023–25
Iceland	2018–19[4]	2025–27
Ireland	2013–15	
Italy	2007–14 19–21	
Luxembourg	2022–24	
Netherlands	2006–10 15–17 20–22	2024–26
Norway	2009–12	
Portugal	2015–17	
Spain	2010–13 18–20	2025–27
Switzerland	2006–09 10–13 16–18	2025–27
UK	2006–11 14–19 21–23	
USA	2009–12 13–15 17–18[4] 22–24	

Bureau, 19th cycle (2025)

President

Jürg Lauber, Switzerland

Vice-Presidents

Tareq Md Ariful Islam, Bangladesh

Paul Empole Efambe, DR Congo

Claudia Fuentes Julio, Chile

Răzvan-Victor Rusu, Romania

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Notes

1 Prior to 2013, terms were usually three years, beginning and ending in mid-June. Terms that were to expire in June 2012 were extended until 31 December of that year.

2 The rights of membership to the HRC of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were suspended by the General Assembly on 1 March 2011 and restored on 18 November 2011 to Libya.

3 The Russian Federation served on the HRC in 2006–12, 2014–16 and 2021–22. Its rights of membership to the HRC were suspended by the General Assembly on 7 April 2022, following which the Russian Federation relinquished its membership on the same day. Czechia was elected on 10 May 2022 to complete the remainder of the term ending 31 December 2023.

4 The USA withdrew from the HRC, effective 19 June 2018. After the USA resigned from the Council, Iceland was elected on 13 July 2018 to complete the remainder of the term ending 31 December 2019.

Mechanisms of the Human Rights Council

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main

Purpose

The UPR is a process for reviewing the human rights records of all UN Member States (GA res. 60/251 (2006)). Under the auspices of the Human Rights Council (HRC), the UPR provides the opportunity for each Member State to declare what actions it has taken to improve human rights in its country and to fulfil its human rights obligations. The mechanism was further refined during the review process through HRC res. 16/21 (2011) and HRC decision 17/119 (2011).

Structure

The reviews are conducted by the UPR Working Group. Each state review is assisted by groups of three states, known as 'troikas', serving as rapporteurs selected by the drawing of lots. Each review is a three-and-a-half-hour interactive dialogue, which is open to participation by all UN Member and Observer States, may be attended by other stakeholders, and is webcast in all UN languages.

Reviews are based on the national report prepared by the state under review; information from UN documents compiled by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including inputs from human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures mandate holders; and a summary of information provided by other relevant stakeholders, including regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations. Working Group reports are submitted to the HRC for its consideration in plenary, under item 6 of its agenda. The HRC plenary adopts an outcome report in respect of each state.

With 100 percent participation so far, the first review cycle of all 193 UN members was completed in March 2012, the second in May 2017 and the third in July 2022. The fourth cycle started in November 2022 (HRC decision 47/115). The order of review remains the same as in previous cycles.

The HRC adopted the UPR modalities in June 2007 (HRC res. 5/1), updating them for the second cycle (HRC res. 16/21 and decision 17/119).

Starting with the third cycle, OHCHR has developed tools to facilitate implementation and follow-up, available on the website under 'Documentation'. As requested by the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights (2020), a UPR Practical Guidance document was prepared by the OCHCR to provide advice for UN entities at country level to maximize use of the UPR and its integration with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (see www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_Practical_Guidance.pdf). A Repository of UN good practices

on how the UPR process supports sustainable development was issued in February 2022 by the OHCHR, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) (see www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/UPR_good_practices_2022.pdf).

Meetings

The Working Group convenes three two-week sessions a year.

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (HRCAC)

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/advisory-committee/hrcac-index

Purpose

The HRCAC provides thematic expertise to the Human Rights Council (HRC), mainly through studies and research-based advice. It is intended to function as a think tank to the HRC and work at its direction, and does not adopt resolutions but makes recommendations to the HRC. The HRC established the Advisory Committee in 2007 (HRC res. 5/1) to replace the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which was a subsidiary body of the former Commission on Human Rights. The Committee first met in 2008. The Committee's annual report is submitted to the HRC at its September session and is the subject of an interactive dialogue with the Committee Chair (HRC res. 16/21).

Meetings

The Committee convenes two sessions a year for a maximum of 10 days a year. Currently it meets for one week in February, immediately before the March session of the Council, and for one week in August. Additional sessions may be scheduled on an ad hoc basis with the HRC's prior approval.

Membership

The Committee is composed of 18 experts, acting in their personal capacities, from different professional backgrounds and representing the regions of the world. Experts are nominated by governments according to criteria outlined in HRC res. 5/1, paras 66–67, and elected by the HRC during its last regular session of the year (September–October). Members serve for three years and may be re-elected once. Terms start on 1 October of the year of election. The geographic distribution of experts is: Africa five, Asia–Pacific five, Eastern Europe two, Latin America and Caribbean three, Western European and Others three.

Members (18)

Term ends 30 Sept 2025

Noor Al-Malki Al-Jehani, Qatar (Vice-Chair 2025)

Rabah Boudache, Algeria

Milena Costas Trascasas, Spain

Sebastião da Silva Isata, Angola

Javier Palummo, Uruguay

Vasilka Sancin, Slovenia

Zhang Yue, China

Term ends 30 Sept 2026

Joseph Gérard Angoh, Mauritius

Buhm-Suk Baek, ROK

Nadia Amal Bernoussi, Morocco (Chair 2025)

Riva Ganguly Das, India

Jewel Major, Bahamas

Patrycja Sasnal, Poland (Vice-Chair 2025)

Catherine Van de Heyning, Belgium (Rapporteur 2025)

Term ends 30 Sept 2027

Alessandra Devulsky, Brazil (Vice-Chair 2025)

Miznah Omair Alomair, Saudi Arabia

Vassilis Tzevelekos, Greece

Frans Viljoen, South Africa

34 Human Rights Council Complaint Procedure

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/complaint-procedure/hrc-complaint-procedure-index

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) Complaint Procedure addresses consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms occurring in any part of the world and under any circumstances. It is based on the former Commission on Human Rights' 1503 procedure, improved to ensure that it is impartial, objective, efficient, victim-oriented and conducted in a timely manner.

The procedure is the only universal complaint procedure covering all human rights and fundamental freedoms in all states. Communications under it are not tied to the acceptance of treaty obligations by the country concerned or the existence of a Special Procedures mandate.

Structure

The Complaint Procedure comprises two working groups that were established in June 2007:

- The Working Group on Communications (WGC) decides on the admissibility of communications (HRC res. 5/1) and assesses the allegations of violations. It examines complaints and replies from governments with a view to bringing communications that appear to reveal consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms to the attention of the Working Group on Situations (WGS).
- The WGS, on the basis of information and recommendations provided by the WGC, presents a report and makes recommendations for action to the HRC. Like the WGC, it can decide to keep a situation under review or to dismiss a case.

Both groups work on the basis of consensus, as far as possible. In the absence of consensus, decisions are taken by simple majority vote. The complaint procedure is confidential and this feature ensures greater cooperation of the state concerned with the procedure.

Meetings

Both working groups meet in private for five days twice a year. The HRC considers the WGS's report and situations brought to its attention at least once a year.

Membership

The WGC comprises five independent experts from the HRC Advisory Committee (HRCAC), one from each regional group, who are usually appointed for three years, renewable once. In the years when terms end, the HRCAC usually appoints new members in August to take up terms starting on 1 October. The WGS comprises five members appointed by the HRC regional groups, who serve in their personal capacity. Appointments are for one year, renewable once. Terms start on 1 January.

Members

Working Group on Communications (WGC) 2025

Buhm-Suk Baek, ROK

Milena Costas Trascasas, Spain

Jewel Majors, Bahamas (Vice-Chair–Rapporteur)

Patrycja Sasnal, Poland

Frans Viljoen, South Africa (Chair–Rapporteur)

Working Group on Situations (WGS) 2025

Vàclav Bàlek, Czechia

Christian Guillermet Fernández, Costa Rica

Muhammadou M O Kah, Gambia

Gaëlle Powis de Tenbossche, Belgium (Vice-Chair–Rapporteur)

Salma Rasheed, Maldives (Chair–Rapporteur)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

Email: expertmechanism@ohchr.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/expert-mechanism-on-indigenous-peoples

Purpose

EMRIP was established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2007 under resolution 6/36 as a subsidiary body of the Council. Its mandate was then amended in September 2016 by HRC res. 33/25. The Expert Mechanism provides the HRC with expertise and advice on the rights of Indigenous Peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and assists Member States, upon request, in achieving the ends of the Declaration through the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

HRC res. 33/25 expanded EMRIP's mandate to include country engagement. The Expert Mechanism should: facilitate dialogue between Indigenous Peoples, states and other stakeholders; provide independent advice on the implementation of laws and policies to implement UNDRIP; and provide capacity-building and technical cooperation to Indigenous Peoples and states upon request. More information, including details of country-specific advice to date, is available on the website under 'Country engagement'.

EMRIP submits annual thematic studies and reports to the HRC, available on the website. Recent topics include the right of Indigenous Peoples to data, including with regard to data collection and disaggregation, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples to their traditional economies.

Meetings

Meetings are held annually for up to five days, usually in July. Representatives from Member States, Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and academia take part.

Membership

EMRIP consists of seven independent experts, one from each of the seven Indigenous sociocultural regions. Members are appointed by the HRC with due regard to recognized competence in the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous origin and gender balance. Terms are for three years, renewable three times, and begin on 1 May.

Members (7)

Anexa Brendalee Alfred Cunningham, Nicaragua (term ends 2028)

Binota Moy Dhamai, Bangladesh (term ends 2026)

Antonina Gorbunova, Russian Federation (term ends 2028)

Sheryl Lightfoot, Canada (term ends 2027)

Ojot Miru Ojulu, Ethiopia (term ends 2027)

Dalee Sambo Dorough, USA (term ends 2026)

Valmaine Toki, New Zealand (term ends 2028)

Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD)

Email: OHCHR-emrtd@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/expert-mechanism-on-right-to-development

Purpose

EMRTD was established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in 2019 under resolution 42/23 as a subsidiary body of the Council. The Expert Mechanism provides the HRC with thematic expertise on the right to development in searching for, identifying and sharing best practices with Member States and promotes the implementation of the right to development worldwide. HRC res. 45/6 (2020) expanded its mandate to include, among other things, study visits.

Meetings

The Expert Mechanism holds two annual sessions for three days each, in Geneva and New York. Its eleventh session took place in April 2025 in New York, and its twelfth is scheduled to be held from 27 to 29 October 2025 in Geneva.

Membership

EMRTD consists of five independent experts on the right to development, one from each of the five regions. Members are appointed by the HRC for three-year terms, renewable once.

Members (5)

Isabelle Durant, Belgium
(term ends 30 April 2026)

Juana María Ibañez Rivas, Peru
(term ends 31 July 2028)

Bonny Ibhawoh, Nigeria
(term ends 30 April 2026)

Mihir Kanade, India
(term ends 30 April 2026)

Klentiana Mahmutaj, Albania
(term ends 30 April 2026)

Forum on Minority Issues

Email: hrc-sr-minorityforum@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiary-bodies/minority-issues-forum

Purpose

The Forum provides a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation amongst numerous stakeholders, and in particular between Member States and minorities, on issues relating to the recognition and effective protection of the human rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. It provides thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, and identifies best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Forum in its resolution 6/15 (2007) and renewed its mandate by resolution 19/23 (2012).

Meetings

The Forum meets for two days each year, usually in late November or early December, for thematic discussions. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues, currently Nicolas Levrat, Switzerland, is required by resolution 19/23 to guide the Forum's work and prepare its annual meetings. In addition, the Special Rapporteur is invited to report on the Forum's thematic recommendations, along with recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the HRC.

The Forum is open to a range of participants, including: UN Member States; UN and other international or regional mechanisms, bodies, specialized agencies and programmes; national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies; academics; and non-governmental organizations. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) supports the convening of the Forum and the participation of relevant stakeholders from every region, giving particular attention to ensuring broad and equitable participation, particularly including the representation of women. The largest number of participants come from minority representatives and organizations. Experts in the thematic areas covered by the Forum who are members of minorities are particularly encouraged to attend. A chair is appointed by the HRC President for each session on the basis of regional rotation and in consultation with regional groups. The Chair is also responsible for preparing a summary of the Forum's discussion.

Social Forum

Email: ohchr-socialforum@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/social-forum

Purpose

The Social Forum of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is a space for dialogue between the UN human rights machinery and Member States and all other interested stakeholders, on contemporary thematic issues related to human rights. Stakeholders include intergovernmental organizations; different components of the UN system; representatives of the private sector; non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and representatives of other non-governmental organizations whose aim and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Since 2002, the Forum has focused on a range of issues, including poverty, globalization, the right to development, climate change, the rights of older persons, access to medicines, persons with disabilities, HIV and other communicable diseases, and sports and the Olympic ideal.

The Forum was initially a subsidiary body of the former Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which was the main subsidiary body of the former Commission on Human Rights. The HRC decided to preserve the Forum and upgrade its status to be a subsidiary body of the HRC, not of its Advisory Committee that replaced the Sub-Commission (HRC res. 6/13 (2007)).

Meetings

The HRC Social Forum meets annually in Geneva. Through its resolution 56/12 the HRC decided that the 21st session of the Social Forum should focus on the contribution of education to the respect, promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for all. The 21st session is scheduled to take place in Geneva from 30 to 31 October 2025. Side events organized by various stakeholders also take place during the two days of the Social Forum's sessions.

The Social Forum is open to a wide range of participants, as listed in HRC res. 6/13 (2007). The Chair–Rapporteur is appointed for each session by the HRC President from candidates nominated by regional groups. The Co-Chair-Rapporteurs of the 2025 session are Anita Pipan, Slovenia, and Carlos D Sorreta, Philippines.

UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

Email: ohchr-forumbhr@un.org
X: @WGBizHRs
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiary-bodies/united-nations-forum-business-and-human-rights

Purpose

The Forum's role is to discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (the UN 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework). It also promotes dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights, including challenges faced in particular sectors, operational environments or in relation to specific rights or groups, as well as identifying good practices. The Forum was established in 2011 by the Human Rights Council (res. 17/4) and operates under the guidance of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Since 2017, the Working Group also chairs the Forum and prepares a report on the proceedings and thematic recommendations of the Forum (HRC resolutions 35/7 (2017), 44/15 (2020) and 53/3 (2023)).

Meetings

The annual Forum is usually held in November in Geneva, for a session of three working days. It is the world's largest annual gathering on business and human rights, bringing together almost 4000 representatives from 140 countries. Participation is open and free of charge to all relevant stakeholders, including states, the wider UN system, intergovernmental and regional organizations, business enterprises, labour unions, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, academia and affected stakeholders (HRC res. 17/4). Events organized on the margins of the Forum by other stakeholder groups generally take place before and/or after the Forum. The 2025 Forum is scheduled to take place from 24 to 26 November, with the theme 'Accelerating action on business and human rights amidst crises and transformations'.

Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

Email: OHCHR-democracyforum@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/democracy-forum

Purpose

The Forum provides a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and is mandated to identify and analyse best practices, challenges and opportunities for states in their efforts to secure respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Forum in its resolution 28/14 (2015).

Meetings

The Forum usually meets every two years in Geneva, for two days in November. Its fifth session, scheduled to take place on 13 and 14 October 2025 (postponed from November 2024 due to the ongoing liquidity crisis), will focus on the theme 'Democracy and climate change: focusing on solutions'.

Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Email: pfpad@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/permanent-forum-people-african-descent

Purpose

On 2 August 2021, the General Assembly adopted resolution 75/314, which formally operationalized the Permanent Forum as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders and as a platform for improving the safety and quality of life and livelihoods of people of African descent. The Permanent Forum also serves as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council (HRC), in line with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and in close coordination with existing mechanisms.

The Forum's mandate includes providing expert advice and recommendations to the HRC, the General Assembly and other UN bodies, aimed at addressing challenges resulting from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance confronting people of African descent that impede their human rights. It is also tasked with considering the elaboration of a UN declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent. More detailed information is available on the website under 'Mandate'.

The General Assembly first decided to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism in November 2014 (GA res. 69/16). The Permanent Forum's modalities and mandate were further developed by HRC resolutions 30/17 (2015) and 34/33 (2017) and GA res. 73/262 (2018) before being established by HRC res. 75/314 (2021). More detailed information is available on the website under 'Background'.

Meetings

The Permanent Forum is open to a wide range of participants, as listed in GA res. 75/314 (2021). Its annual sessions, focusing on thematic human rights concerns of people of African descent, alternate between Geneva and New York. Most recently, its fourth session was held in New York in April 2025.

Membership

The Permanent Forum consists of 10 experts who serve in an independent capacity. Five are nominated by governments and elected by the General Assembly, and five are appointed by the President of the HRC.

Members (10)

Appointed by the General Assembly

Ana Matarrita McCalla, Costa Rica

Justin Hansford, USA

Martin Kimani, Kenya (Chair)

Mona Omar, Egypt

June Soomer, Saint Lucia

Appointed by the HRC

Gaynel Curry, Bahamas (Vice-Chair)

Ma Yuanchun, China

Pastor Elías Murillo Martínez, Colombia (Rapporteur)

Michael McEachrane, Sweden

Alice Angèle Nkom, Cameroon

Thematic Working Groups of the Human Rights Council

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/open-ended-intergovernmental-working-groups

Working Group on the Right to Development

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/iwg-on-development

Purpose

The Working Group was established by the Commission on Human Rights (res. 1998/72) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (decision 1998/269). It was set up to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development as elaborated in the Declaration on the Right to Development (adopted by GA res. 41/128 (1986)). The Human Rights Council (HRC), which replaced the Commission in 2006, renewed the Working Group's mandate until it completes the tasks entrusted to it in HRC res. 4/4 of 2007 (HRC res. 9/3 (2008)).

In its resolution 57/19 (2024), the HRC stressed the importance of the realization of the Working Group's mandate, and recognized the need for renewed efforts within the Working Group so that it may fulfil its mandate.

The Working Group regularly engages with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, established in 2016 (HRC res. 33/14), and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, established in 2019 (HRC res. 42/23).

Meetings

The Group meets once a year for five working days in Geneva, usually in May. It elects the Chair–Rapporteur at each session, usually a government representative.

Membership

The Working Group is composed of all UN Member States. Its sessions can also be attended by non-Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other entities with observer status, specialized agencies and related organizations as well as non-governmental organizations with ECOSOC consultative status.

Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/iwg-on-durban

Purpose

The Working Group was created in 2002 as a follow-up mechanism to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, South Africa, 2001). It is mandated to:

- Review progress made in the implementation of the DDPA, including progress made in the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–24)
- Present a report on its deliberations, including conclusions and recommendations to the Human Rights Council (HRC).

The Group's mandate was transferred from the Commission on Human Rights to the HRC in June 2006 (GA res. 60/251). Its mandate was most recently renewed for three years in March 2023 by HRC res. 52/37. GA res. 76/226 (2022) requested that the Working Group devote at least half of its annual session to the elaboration of a draft UN declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent.

The DDPA records a commitment by governments, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to work together to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Meetings

The Group previously met once a year, usually in October. From 2023, the Group has met twice per year, and from 2024, it meets for one week in April/May and one week in October/November.

Membership

Membership is open to all UN Member States and observers. The Chair–Rapporteur is elected annually by the group.

Group of Independent Eminent Experts (IEE) on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA)

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/chr-subsidiaries/group-of-experts-on-ddpa

Purpose

The Group of Independent Eminent Experts was established in paragraph 191(b) of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to follow the implementation of its provisions. The DDPA is the UN's blueprint to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance globally.

The terms of reference of the Group were defined by the UN Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2002/68 and readjusted in resolution 2003/30. In 2022, the Human Rights Council (HRC) decided that the Group would function as an advisory mechanism for the Council and the General Assembly on the implementation of the DDPA and work towards mobilizing global political will for concrete action to implement the DDPA (HRC res. 51/32).

The members of the Group, one from each region, are appointed by the UN Secretary-General from among candidates proposed by the HRC President, after consultation with the regional groups, for a period of four years, renewable once.

Meetings

The Group meets annually in Geneva for a four-day session. Individual members also participate in various meetings and events at international, regional and national level in the field of human rights and anti-racism. The Group's 11th session took place from 28 April to 1 May 2025 in Geneva. See the website for details.

Members (5)

José Antonio Aguilar Contreras, Mexico, Founder and Executive Director of civil society organization RacismoMX

Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Pakistan

Salome Mbugua, Ireland, CEO of AkiDwA – the Migrant Women's Network

Joel Malesela Modiri, South Africa, Associate Professor of Jurisprudence, University of Pretoria

Hanna Suchocka, former Prime Minister of Poland

Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/adhoc-committee-on-complementary-standards-to-icerd

Purpose

The Ad Hoc Committee was established by Human Rights Council (HRC) decision 3/103 of 2006. Its mandate is to elaborate, as a matter of priority and necessity, complementary standards in the form of either a convention or additional protocol(s) to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, filling the existing gaps in the Convention; and to provide new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary racism, including incitement to racial and religious hatred. The HRC reiterated the Committee's mandate in its resolutions 6/21 (2007) and 10/30 (2009). The General Assembly (GA resolutions 71/181 (2016), 72/157 (2017) and 73/262 (2018)) and the Human Rights Council (HRC res. 34/36 (2017)) requested that the Chair–Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee "ensure the commencement of the negotiations on the draft additional protocol to the Convention criminalizing acts of a racist and xenophobic nature". Most recently, GA res. 79/161 (2024) requested that the Chair–Rapporteur present a progress report to the General Assembly at its 80th session.

Recently, the Committee has considered issues such as hate speech and hate crime, discrimination based on religion or belief, xenophobia, cybercrime and preventative measures against racism.

Meetings

The Committee held its first session in February 2008 and has subsequently met annually in Geneva. The 15th session took place from 9 to 11 April and 26 to 30 May 2025.

Membership

Membership is open to all Member States and observers. The Committee elects the Chair–Rapporteur annually.

Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework, without prejudging the nature thereof, relating to the activities of private military and security companies

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/pms-cs/igwg-index1

Purpose

The Intergovernmental Working Group is mandated by HRC res. 36/11 of 28 September 2017 to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework, without prejudging the nature thereof, to protect human rights and ensure accountability for violations and abuses relating to the activities of private military and security companies. This work is informed by the discussion document 'Elements for an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies', as prepared by the Chair–Rapporteur in 2017 (see A/HRC/36/36, also available on the website), and further inputs from Member States and other stakeholders. The Working Group's mandate has been renewed twice, most recently in October 2023 for a further three years (HRC res. 54/11).

Meetings

The Working Group usually meets annually for five working days in Geneva. Most recently, at its sixth session in April 2025, it considered the revised fourth draft instrument of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring of and oversight over the activities of private military and security companies. After each new draft of the instrument is released, intersessional consultations are usually held to discuss it, before a revised draft is issued ahead of the session.

Membership

All UN Member and Observer States, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations with ECOSOC consultative status may attend public meetings.

Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/wg-trans-corp/igwg-on-tnc

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Working Group in June 2014 in its resolution 26/9. It is mandated to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Meetings

The Working Group usually meets annually in Geneva. Its eleventh session is scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 October 2025.

In July 2024, the HRC decided that starting in 2025, for a period of three years, the Working Group will convene intersessional thematic consultations each year, for the purpose of discussing clusters of articles of the draft legally binding instrument currently being negotiated (HRC decision 56/116).

Membership

UN Member and Observer States, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions with 'A status' accreditation and non-governmental organizations with ECOSOC consultative status may attend and participate in Working Group public meetings.

Open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the rights to early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/wg-opcrc-education

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Working Group in its resolution 56/5 of 10 July 2024. It is mandated to explore the possibility of elaborating and submitting to the HRC a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child with the aim to:

- Explicitly recognize that the right to education includes early childhood care and education
- Explicitly state that, with a view to achieving the right to education, States shall make public pre-primary education available free to all, beginning with at least one year, and make public secondary education available free to all
- Recall that States shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education
- Consider a provision that would allow for States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to incorporate all reporting on their obligations under the optional protocol into their reports submitted under Article 44 of the Convention, eliminating the need for an initial or other separate reports.

The HRC decided that the working group shall invite experts and all relevant stakeholders, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, relevant Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and other relevant independent experts, States, and civil society, to engage with it. The HRC also emphasized the importance of the meaningful participation of children, in an ethical, safe and inclusive manner, and in particular to give children the opportunity to express their views on the topic and substance of the proposed optional protocol.

Meetings

The first session of the intergovernmental working group was scheduled to take place from 1 to 5 September 2025 in Geneva.

Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council

Purpose

The UN Human Rights Council's (HRC's) Special Procedures are independent human rights experts who investigate and report on thematic or country-specific human rights issues. They cover all rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – and are core to the UN human rights machinery.

The mandate holders – Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts or Working Group members – serve in their personal capacities. They are not UN staff members and do not receive salaries or other financial remuneration for their work.

Mandate holders conduct studies, visit countries, provide advice, engage in advocacy, raise public awareness and work in partnership with non-governmental organizations. They regularly prepare written submissions, or 'communications', addressed to states and others, drawing attention to individual cases or situations where human rights have allegedly been violated. They interact regularly with actual and potential victims of human rights violations and constitute a unique link between states, national institutions and civil society.

The mandates are established by the HRC and supported by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Coordination Committee of Special

Procedures promotes greater coordination among the mandate holders and acts as a bridge between them, the OHCHR, the broader UN rights framework and civil society.

OHCHR's Special Procedures Branch provides direct support for all but one of the thematic mandates. It works closely with other parts of OHCHR that support the country mandates and other thematic Special Procedures, and supports their work in the field. OHCHR provides thematic, fact-finding, policy and legal expertise, conducts research and analysis, and provides assistance with logistical and administrative matters. The Branch also supports the system of Special Procedures as a whole, including its coordination and various related processes.

All mandate holders report annually to the HRC and the majority also report to the General Assembly. As at 1 July 2025, there were 46 thematic and 14 country mandates.

Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups

Internet: www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/current-and-former-mandate-holders-existing-mandates

Country mandates*

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

Richard Bennett, New Zealand

Mandate established in 2021 by HRC res. 48/1; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 57/3 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus

Nils Muižnieks, Latvia

Mandate established in 2012 by HRC res. 20/13; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/19 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi

Fortuné Gaetan Zongo, Burkina Faso

Mandate established in 2021 by HRC res. 48/16; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 57/22 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia

Vitit Muntarbhorn, Thailand

Mandate established in 1993 by CHR res. 1993/6; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/36 for two years

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic

Yao Agbetse, Togo

Mandate established in 2013 by HRC res. 24/34, for one year, and HRC res. S-20/1; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 57/35 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Elizabeth Salmon, Peru

Mandate established in 2004 by CHR res. 2004/13 for one year; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/17 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker, Sudan

Mandate established in 2012 by HRC res. 20/20 for one year; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 59/1 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Mai Sato, Japan

Mandate established in 2011 by HRC res. 16/9; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/21 for one year

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali

Eduardo Gonzalez, Peru

Mandate established in 2013 by HRC res. 22/18; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/30 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Thomas H Andrews, USA

Mandate established in 1992 by CHR res. 1992/58; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/20 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

Francesca Albanese, Italy

Mandate established in 1993 by CHR res. 1993/2 until the end of the Israeli occupation

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation

Mariana Katzarova, Bulgaria

Mandate established in 2022 by HRC res. 51/25; extended in 2024 by HRC res. 57/20 for one year

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia

Isha Dyfan, Sierra Leone

Mandate established in 1993 by CHR res. 1993/86; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 57/27 for one year

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Brazil, to start once the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry ends

Mandate established in 2011 by the 18th Special Session of the HRC S-18/1

Note

* The Human Rights Council (HRC) replaced the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in 2006.

Thematic mandates*

Working Group of Experts on people of African descent

Bina D'Costa, Bangladesh

Miriam Ekiudoko, Hungary

Isabelle Mamadou, Spain

Catherine S Namakula, Uganda

Barbara G Reynolds, Guyana

Mandate established in 2002 by CHR res. 2002/68; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/26

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism

Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond, Zambia

Mandate established in 2015 by HRC res. 28/6; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 55/18

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Miriam Estrada-Castillo, Ecuador

Mathew Gillett, New Zealand

Mumba Malila, Zambia

Hee-Seok Shin, ROK

Ganna Yudkivska, Ukraine

Mandate established in 1991 by CHR res. 1991/42; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/8

Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Fernanda Hopenhaym, Mexico

Lyra Jakulevičienė, Lithuania

Robert McCorquodale, Australia

Damilola Olawuyi, Nigeria

Pichamon Yeophantong, Thailand

Mandate established in 2011 by HRC res. 17/4; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/3

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change

Elisa Morgera, Italy

Mandate established in 2021 by HRC res. 48/14; extended in 2024 by HRC res. 57/31

Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

Alexandra Xanthaki, Greece

Mandate established in 2009 by HRC res. 10/23; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 55/5

Special Rapporteur on the right to development

Surya Deva, India

Mandate established in 2016 by HRC res. 33/14; extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/7

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Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

Heba Hagrass, Egypt

Mandate established in 2014 by HRC res. 26/20; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/14

Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances

Aua Baldé, Guinea-Bissau

Grażyna Baranowska, Poland

Gabriella Citroni, Italy

Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez, Mexico

Mohammed Al-Obaidi, Iraq

Mandate established in 1980 by CHR res. 20 (XXXVI); most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/14

Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Farida Shaheed, Pakistan

Mandate established in 1998 by CHR res. 1998/33; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/7

Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Astrid Puentes Riaño, Mexico

Mandate established in 2012 by HRC res. 19/10; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 55/2

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Morris Tidball-Binz, Chile

Mandate established in 1982 by CHR res. 1982/29 and ECOSOC res. 1982/35; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/4

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Michael Fakhri, Lebanon

Mandate established in 2000 by CHR res. 2000/10; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/10

Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of states on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

Attiya Waris, Kenya

Mandate established in 2000 by CHR res. 2000/82; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/17

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Irene Khan, Bangladesh

Mandate established in 1993 by CHR res. 1993/45; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/9

Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Gina Paola Romero Rodríguez, Colombia

Mandate established in 2010 by HRC res. 15/21; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 59/4

Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Tlaleng Mofokeng, South Africa

Mandate established in 2002 by CHR res. 2002/31; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/21

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, USA

Mandate established in 2000 by CHR res. 2000/9; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/10

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Mary Lawlor, Ireland

Mandate established in 2000 by CHR res. 2000/61; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/4

Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Margaret Satterthwaite, USA

Mandate established in 1994 by CHR res. 1994/41; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/12

Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

Albert Kwokwo Barume, DR Congo

Mandate established in 2001 by CHR res. 2001/57; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/16

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

Paula Gaviria Betancur, Colombia

Mandate established in 2004 by CHR res. 2004/55; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 59/12

Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

George Katrougalos, Greece

Mandate established in 2011 by HRC res. 18/6; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/4

Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity

Cecilia Bailliet, Argentina

Mandate established in 2005 by CHR res. 2005/55; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/5

Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members

Beatriz Miranda Galarza, Ecuador

Mandate established in 2017 by HRC res. 35/9; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/8

Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

Ravindran Daniel, India

Jovana Jezdimirovice Ranito, Serbia

Joana Lopes de Deus Pereira, Portugal

Andrés Macias Tolosa, Colombia

Michelle René Small, South Africa

Mandate established in 2005 by CHR res. 2005/2; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/13

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

Gehad Madi, Egypt

Mandate established in 1999 by CHR res. 1999/44; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/20

Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Nicolas Levrat, Switzerland

Mandate established in 2005 by CHR res. 2005/79; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/5

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Claudia Mahler, Austria

Mandate established in 2013 by HRC res. 24/20; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res 51/4

Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas

Carlos Duarte, Colombia

Shalmali Guttal, India

Davit Hakobyan, Armenia

Uche Ewelukwa Ofodile, Nigeria

Geneviève Savigny, France

Mandate established in 2023 by HRC res. 54/9

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Olivier De Schutter, Belgium

Mandate established in 1998 by CHR res. 1998/25; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/10

Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy

Ana Brian Nougrères, Uruguay

Mandate established in 2015 by HRC res. 28/16; most recently extended in 2024 by HRC res. 55/3

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Ashwini KP, India

Mandate established in 1993 by CHR res. 1993/20; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/36

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

Nazila Ghanea, Iran

Mandate established in 1986 by CHR res. 1986/20; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/5

Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children

Mama Fatima Singhateh, Gambia

Mandate established in 1990 by CHR res. 1990/68; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/26

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Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Graeme Reid, South Africa

Mandate established in 2016 by HRC res. 32/2; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 59/5

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

Tomoya Obokata, Japan

Mandate established in 2007 by HRC res. 6/14; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/15

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Ben Saul, Australia

Mandate established in 2005 by CHR res. 2005/80; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 58/14

Special Rapporteur on torture

Alice Jill Edwards, Australia

Mandate established in 1985 by CHR res. 1985/33; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 52/7

Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes (toxics and human rights)

Marcos A Orellana, Chile

Mandate established in 1995 by CHR res. 1995/81; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/10

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

Siobhán Mullally, Ireland

Mandate established in 2004 by CHR res. 2004/110; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 53/9

Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

Bernard Duhaime, Canada

Mandate established in 2011 by HRC res. 18/7; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/8

Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

Alena Douhan, Belarus

Mandate established in 2014 by HRC res. 27/21; most recently extended in 2023 by HRC res. 54/15

Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Reem Alsalem, Jordan

Mandate established in 1994 by CHR res. 1994/45; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 59/20

Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Spain

Mandate established in 2008 by HRC res. 7/22; most recently extended in 2022 by HRC res. 51/19

Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women and girls

Dorothy Estrada-Tanck, Mexico

Claudia Flores, USA

Lu Haina, China

Ivana Krstić, Serbia

Laura Nyirinkindi, Uganda

Mandate established in 2010 by HRC res. 15/23; most recently extended in 2025 by HRC res. 59/14

Note

* The Human Rights Council (HRC) replaced the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in 2006.

Human Rights Council-Mandated Investigations and Related Bodies

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-is

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

Email: ohchr-coisyria@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/coisyria

Purpose

The Commission of Inquiry's role is to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law since March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is also tasked with establishing the facts and circumstances that may amount to such violations and of the crimes perpetrated; and, where possible, to identify those responsible with a view to ensuring that perpetrators of violations, including those that may constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes, are held accountable. The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Commission on 22 August 2011 (res. S-17/1). Its mandate has been extended several times, most recently in April 2025 for a further year (HRC res. 58/25).

The Commission presented its first report to the HRC in December 2011, and has presented several reports since then detailing human rights and humanitarian law violations committed throughout the country. Its most recent report was presented in March 2025 (A/HRC/58/66).

Members

Hanny Megally, Egypt (appointed by the HRC President in October 2017)

Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Brazil (Chair) (appointed by the HRC President in September 2011)

Lynn Welchman, UK (appointed by the HRC President in December 2021)

International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM)

Website: https://iiim.un.org

The Mechanism (IIIM) was established by GA res. 71/248 in December 2016. It has two main tracks to its work: to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses; and to share evidence and prepare files to facilitate and expedite fair and independent justice processes in national, regional or international courts, in accordance with international law. The Mechanism is headed by Robert Petit, Canada, who was appointed by the UN Secretary-General on 22 March 2024.

Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic (IIMP)

Email: iimp-syria@un.org
Website: https://iimp.un.org/en

The Independent Institution was established by GA res. 77/301 in June 2023 in response to the urgent calls for action from family members of Syria's thousands of missing persons. Its role is to clarify the fate and whereabouts of all missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic and to provide adequate support to victims, survivors and the families of those missing (res. 77/301).

This work is carried out with the full and meaningful participation of victims, with sustained engagement with Syrian civil society including women's organizations, and in close cooperation and complementarity with all relevant actors. The Independent Institution is headed by Karla Quintana, Mexico, who was appointed by the UN Secretary-General on 19 December 2024.

Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

Email: ohchr-chrsouthsudan@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/cohrsouthsudan

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan on 23 March 2016 (res. 31/20) for one year. Its mandate has been renewed nine times, most recently in April 2025 (HRC res. 58/1) for an additional year. The Commission's role is to monitor and report on the situation of human rights in South Sudan and make recommendations for its improvement. A core element of its mandate is to determine the facts and circumstances of, collect and preserve evidence of, and clarify responsibility for alleged gross violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence and ethnic violence. The Commission is tasked to assess the human rights situation in the country, in order to establish a factual basis for transitional justice and reconciliation; to provide guidance to the Government of South Sudan on transitional justice, accountability, reconciliation and healing issues; and to engage with other international and regional mechanisms to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses.

The Commission began operations in July 2016. It has presented nine annual mandate reports to the HRC, most recently at its 58th session in February 2025 (A/HRC/58/27).

Members

Barney Afako, Uganda
Carlos Castresana Fernández, Spain
Yasmin Sooka, South Africa (Chair)

OHCHR Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) accountability project

Email: ohchr-seoul@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/democratic-People-Republic-Korea/index

Purpose

On 28 March 2014, in response to the report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which found that systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations were being committed by the DPRK, the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted resolution 25/25. The resolution requested that the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) follow up on the report's recommendations by establishing "a field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to ensure accountability, to enhance engagement and capacity-building with the Governments of all States concerned, civil society and other stakeholders, and to maintain visibility of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through sustained communications, advocacy and outreach initiatives". The OHCHR field-based structure in Seoul was established in June 2015.

In HRC res. 34/24 of 24 March 2017, the HRC strengthened the capacity of the OHCHR, including its field-based structure in Seoul, for two years, to allow for the implementation of relevant recommendations made by the group of independent experts on accountability in the

DPRK in its report (A/HRC/34/66/Add.1). The resolution specifically called for "strengthening current monitoring and documentation efforts, establishing a central information and evidence repository, and having experts in legal accountability assess all information and testimonies with a view to developing possible strategies to be used in any future accountability process". In accordance with this mandate, staffing capacity was increased, to strengthen the Office's ongoing work on promoting accountability in the DPRK. In HRC res. 49/22 (2022), the Council requested the OHCHR to organize "a series of consultations and outreach activities with victims, affected communities and other relevant stakeholders with a view to including their views into avenues for accountability". This strengthened mandate has been renewed four times, most recently by HRC res. 58/17 (2025).

International Team of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/kasai-region/index

Purpose

On 23 June 2017, the Human Rights Council (HRC) requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to dispatch a team of international experts to collect and preserve information, to determine the facts and circumstances concerning alleged human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law in the Kasaï region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (res. 35/33). That team's report was presented to the HRC at its 38th session (A/HRC/38/31, complemented by conference room paper A/HRC/38/CRP.1).

On 6 July 2018, the HRC requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to dispatch a new team of two international human rights experts with a mandate to monitor, evaluate, provide support and report on the implementation by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the recommendations of the previous team of experts, especially with respect to the fight against impunity and measures to promote reconciliation, and to make recommendations in that regard (res. 38/20). HRC res. 48/20 of October 2021 extended the mandate to cover the entire national territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Team's mandate has been renewed five times, most recently in October 2024 by HRC res. 57/34 for an additional year.

The Team presented its most recent report to the HRC at its 57th session (A/HRC/57/81) and its most recent oral update at the HRC's 58th session. In HRC res. 57/34, the Council requested the team to present its final report at the HRC's 60th session.

Members

Bessolé René Bagoro, Burkina Faso

Marie-Therese Keita-Bocoum, Côte d'Ivoire

Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM)

Email: iimm@un.org
Website: https://iimm.un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MyanmarMechanism

Purpose

The IIMM was established by the Human Rights Council (HRC) in September 2018 (res. 39/2). It is mandated to collect evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011 and prepare files for criminal proceedings in national, regional and international courts and tribunals. The Head of the Mechanism, Nicholas Koumjian, USA, was appointed by the UN Secretary-General on 2 April 2019. The IIMM became operational on 30 August 2019. The Mechanism is currently sharing evidence and information with investigative authorities working on ongoing cases at the

International Criminal Court and in Argentina related to serious international crimes committed against the Rohingya population. The Mechanism is also sharing evidence and information with the parties in the case of *The Gambia v. Myanmar* at the International Court of Justice.

On 3 April 2025, the HRC called on all relevant actors in Myanmar and other Member States to cooperate with the Mechanism, to grant it access, including to witnesses and other information providers, and to provide it with every assistance in the execution of its mandate (HRC res. 58/20).

Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Email: ohchr-ffmvenezuela@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffmv/index

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Fact-Finding Mission on 27 September 2019 (HRC res. 42/25). Its role is to investigate serious human rights violations committed in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela since 2014. The Mission's mandate has been extended three times, most recently in October 2024 for two additional years (res. 57/36).

The Mission has presented five reports to the HRC, most recently at its 57th session in September 2024 (A/HRC/57/57), complemented by conference room paper A/HRC/57/CRP.5). It is due to present its next report to the HRC at its 60th session in September 2025.

Members

Francisco Cox Vial, Chile
Patricia Tappatá Valdez, Argentina
Marta Valiñas, Portugal (Chair)

OHCHR Sri Lanka accountability project

Email: ohchr-slaccountability@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sri-lanka-accountability/index

Purpose

On 23 March 2021, the Human Rights Council (HRC) recognized "the importance of preserving and analysing evidence relating to violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes in Sri Lanka with a view to advancing accountability", and strengthened the capacity of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) "to collect, consolidate, analyse and preserve information and evidence and to develop possible strategies for future accountability processes for gross violations of human rights or serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sri Lanka, to advocate for victims and survivors, and to support relevant judicial and other proceedings, including in Member States, with competent jurisdiction" (res. 46/1). In accordance with this mandate, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights established the OHCHR Sri Lanka accountability project, based in Geneva. In October 2022, the HRC decided to extend and reinforce the capacity of the OHCHR in this regard (res. 51/1). In October 2024, the HRC decided to extend the mandate of OHCHR and all work requested In Its resolution 51/1 (res. 57/1).

In resolutions 46/1 and 51/1, the HRC also requested that the OHCHR continue to enhance its monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka, including on progress in reconciliation and accountability. The OHCHR presented a written update at the HRC's 54th session in October 2023 (A/HRC/54/20) and a comprehensive report to the HRC at its 57th session in September 2024 (A/HRC/57/19). It presented its most recent oral report to the HRC at its 58th session in March 2025, and is due to present a comprehensive written report to the HRC at its 60th session in September 2025.

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel

Email: coi-opteji@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index

Purpose

On 27 May 2021, the Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Commission with an "ongoing" mandate to investigate, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021 (res. S-30/1). The resolution further requested the Commission to "investigate all underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict, including systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity" and, among other things, to "identify, where possible, those responsible, with a view to ensuring that perpetrators of violations are held accountable".

The Commission is mandated to report to the HRC and to the General Assembly on an annual basis from June 2022 and September 2022, respectively. It has presented six reports, most recently to the HRC's 59th session in June 2025 (A/HRC/59/26), and is due to present its next report to the General Assembly during its annual session in September 2025.

Members

Miloon Kothari, India
Navanethem Pillay, South Africa (Chair)
Chris Sidoti, Australia

International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement

Email: ohchr-emler@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsidiaries/expert-mechanism-racial-justice-law-enforcement

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) created the Expert Mechanism in 2021 for three years (res. 47/21). It was established "in order to further transformative change for racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement globally, especially where relating to the legacies of colonialism and the Transatlantic slave trade in enslaved Africans, to investigate Governments' responses to peaceful anti-racism protests and all violations of international human rights law and to contribute to accountability and redress for victims". In July 2024, the HRC renewed the Expert Mechanism's mandate for a further three years (res. 56/13).

The Mechanism is mandated to:

- Examine systemic racism, including as it relates to structural and institutional racism, faced by Africans and people of African descent, the excessive use of force and other violations of international human rights law by law enforcement officials
- Examine the root causes of systemic racism in law enforcement and the criminal justice system, the excessive use of force, racial profiling and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials against Africans and people of African descent
- Make recommendations on: how domestic legal regimes on the use of force by law enforcement officials can be brought into line with the applicable human rights standards; the collection and publication of data on deaths and serious injuries by law enforcement officials and related prosecutions and convictions, as well as any disciplinary actions; addressing systemic racism, closing trust deficits, strengthening institutional oversight, adopting alternative and complementary methods to policing and the use of force, and encouraging stocktaking of lessons learned; and the concrete steps needed to ensure access to justice, accountability and redress for excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials.

The Mechanism functions in close collaboration with relevant Special Procedures mandate holders, including the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It coordinates its work with a range of UN mechanisms, bodies and processes, regional human rights mechanisms and national human rights institutions.

The Mechanism has also undertaken country visits, including to Belgium, Brazil (A/HRC/57/71/Add.1), Italy (A/HRC/57/71/Add.2), Sweden (A/HRC/54/CRP.1) and the USA (A/HRC/54/CRP.7).

Meetings

The Mechanism meets once a year. Its fourth session took place from 5 to 9 May 2025 in Geneva. It has presented three annual reports to the HRC and the General Assembly, most recently in October 2024 (A/HRC/57/71, A/79/165), and is due to present its fourth report at the HRC's 60th session in September–October 2025.

Membership

The Mechanism consists of three experts with law enforcement and human rights expertise, appointed by the President of the HRC, and supported by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Members (3)

Tracie L Keesee, USA	Akua Kuenyehia, Ghana (Chair)	Víctor M Rodríguez Rescia, Costa Rica

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine

Email: coi-ukraine@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/coiukraine

Purpose

On 4 March 2022, the Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Commission of Inquiry for a period of one year (res. 49/1). Its role is, among other things, to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law, and related crimes in the context of the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation; to establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of any such violations and abuses; and to collect, consolidate and analyse evidence of such violations and abuses, including their gender dimension, in view of any future legal proceedings.

On 12 May 2022, the HRC requested the Commission of Inquiry to address the events in the areas of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy regions in late February and March 2022 (res. S-34/1). The HRC has extended the Commission of Inquiry's mandate three times, most recently on 4 April 2025 for an additional year (HRC res. 58/24).

The Commission presented its most recent report to the HRC's 58th session in March 2025 (A/HRC/58/67) and a conference room paper on drone attacks in Kherson region in May 2025 (A/HRC/59/CRP.2). It is due to present a report to the General Assembly's 80th session in October 2025.

Members

Pablo de Greiff, Colombia	Vrinda Grover, India	Erik Møse, Norway (Chair)

Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/GRHE-Nicaragua/index

Purpose

On 31 March 2022, the Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Group of Experts for a period of one year (res. 49/3). Its mandate is to investigate all alleged human rights violations and abuses committed in Nicaragua since April 2018, including the possible gender dimensions of such violations and abuses, and their structural root causes. The resolution also asked the group to "establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violations and abuses, to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse information and evidence and, where possible, to identify those responsible, and to make such information accessible and usable in support of ongoing and future accountability efforts". The HRC has extended the group's mandate twice, most recently on 3 April 2025 for an additional two years (HRC res. 58/18).

The group presented its most recent report to the HRC at its 58th session in March 2025 (A/HRC/58/26). It is due to present an oral update to the HRC at its 60th session in September/October 2025, as well as to the General Assembly at its 80th session in October 2025, and its next written report to the HRC at its 61st session in February–April 2026.

Members

Reed Bródy, Hungary

Ariela Peralta Distefano, Uruguay

Jan-Michael Simon, Germany (Chair)

Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-iran/index

Purpose

On 24 November 2022, the Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Fact-Finding Mission, and requested that it present a comprehensive report to the Council at its 55th session in March 2024 (res. S-35/1). Its role is to investigate alleged human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran related to the protests that began on 16 September 2022, especially with respect to women and children; to establish the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violations; and to collect, consolidate, analyse and preserve evidence of such violations, including in view of cooperation in any legal proceedings. The resolution requested the Mission to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, relevant UN entities, human rights organizations and civil society. The HRC has extended the Fact-Finding Mission's mandate twice, most recently on 3 April 2025 for an additional year (HRC res. 58/21).

The Fact-Finding Mission presented its first report to the HRC at its 55th session in March 2024 (A/HRC/55/67). It is due to present an oral update to the General Assembly at its 80th session in October 2025, and its next written report to the HRC at its 61st session in February–April 2026.

Members

Shaheen Sardar Ali, Pakistan

Sara Hossain, Bangladesh (Chair)

Viviana Krsticevic, Argentina

Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for the Sudan

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-sudan/index

Purpose

The Human Rights Council (HRC) established the Fact-Finding Mission on 11 October 2023 for an initial period of one year (res. 54/2). Its role is to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those committed against refugees, and related crimes in the context of the ongoing armed conflict that began on 15 April 2023, between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, as well as other warring parties. On 9 October 2024, the HRC extended the Mission's mandate for an additional year (HRC res. 57/2).

The Fact-Finding Mission presented its first written report to the HRC at its 57th session in September–October 2024 (A/HRC/57/23, complemented by conference room paper A/HRC/57/CRP.6), and its most recent oral update to the HRC at its 59th session in June 2025. It is due to present a comprehensive written report to the HRC at its 60th session in September–October 2025 and to the General Assembly at its 80th session in October 2025.

Members

Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Nigeria	Mohamed Chande Othman, UR of Tanzania (Chair)	Mona Rishmawi, Jordan/Switzerland

Group of Independent Experts on the Human Rights Situation in Belarus

Email: giebelarus@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/gie-belarus/index

Purpose

In March 2021, the Human Rights Council (HRC) requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor and report on the situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath (res. 46/20). In order to implement this mandate, the High Commissioner established the OHCHR examination of the human rights situation in Belarus. The mandate was renewed twice, and the High Commissioner presented three reports, most recently at the HRC's 55th session in March 2024 (A/HRC/55/61).

On 4 April 2024, the HRC established, for a renewable period of one year, a group of three independent experts on the situation of human rights in Belarus, to be appointed by the HRC President (HRC res. 55/27). In April 2025, the HRC extended the Group's mandate for a further year (HRC res. 58/19). The role of the Group of Experts is to build on the work of and follow up on the findings in the reports of the Special Rapporteur and the reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, prepared with the assistance of experts appointed pursuant to HRC res. 46/20 (2021) and Special Procedures mandate holders. The Group's mandate is to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses committed in Belarus since 1 May 2020, including their gender and age dimensions and their impact on victims and survivors, and to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of such violations and abuses and, where possible, to identify those responsible in view of relevant judicial and other proceedings.

The Group of Experts presented an oral update to the HRC at its 57th session, in September–October 2024, and a comprehensive report at its 58th session, in February–April 2025 (A/HRC/58/68). It is due to present an oral update to the HRC at its 60th session, in September–October 2025, and a comprehensive report at its 61st session, in February 2026.

Members

Susan Bazilli, Canada

Karinna Moskalenko, Russian Federation (Chair)

Monika Stanisława Platek, Poland

OHCHR Fact-Finding Mission on the situation in the North and South Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (OFFMK)

Email: offmk@un.org
Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-drc/index

Purpose

On 7 February 2025, in response to the worsening human rights and humanitarian crisis caused by the recent escalation of hostilities in the North and South Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Human Rights Council (HRC) requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urgently establish a Fact-Finding Mission on the serious human rights violations and abuses, as well as grave breaches of international humanitarian law committed in these provinces (HRC res. S-37/1).

The OFFMK's mandate is to investigate and establish the facts, circumstances, and root causes of all alleged human rights violations and abuses, as well as violations of international humanitarian law and possible international crimes. It must also identify, to the extent possible, the individuals and entities responsible for human rights violations or abuses, violations of international humanitarian law, and potential international crimes in the context of the most recent escalation of hostilities in North and South Kivu provinces in January 2025.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights presented an oral update on the Fact-Finding Mission's work to the HRC at its 59th session, in June 2025. The High Commissioner is due to present a comprehensive written report to the HRC at its 60th session, in September–October 2025, and to the General Assembly at its 80th session, in October 2025.

The Council also decided to establish an independent Commission of Inquiry, made up of three experts with competency in international rights law, human rights, and international humanitarian law, to be appointed as soon as possible by the President of the HRC, to continue the work undertaken by the Fact-Finding Mission after the presentation of its complete report, with the same mandate as the Fact-Finding Mission.

Recently Completed Investigations

International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia

The Commission was established on 17 December 2021 (HRC res. S-33/1). Its role was to conduct an impartial investigation into allegations of violations and abuses of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law in Ethiopia committed since 3 November 2020 by all parties to the conflict. The Commission presented two reports to the HRC, most recently at its 54th session in September 2023 (A/HRC/54/55).

Other past HRC-mandated Investigations

A list of past mandates can be found on the website.

OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES

Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/committees.shtml

Purpose

The Ad Hoc Committee was established by GA res. 2992 (XXVII) (1972) to study the implications of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (GA res. 2832 (XXVI) (1971)).

Following GA res. 32/86 (1977), a meeting of the Indian Ocean coastal and hinterland states was held in New York in 1979 as a step towards convening a conference on the Indian Ocean. However, efforts at reaching a consensus on when the conference should be held have not been successful. GA res. 46/49 (1991) decided the conference should be structured in more than one stage and that the first stage should be convened in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1993 or as soon as possible. The Committee has not yet been able to reach consensus on the implementation of the Declaration.

The Committee's most recent report to the General Assembly was in July 2023 (A/78/29). GA res. 78/13 (2023) requested the Committee Chair to continue informal consultations with members and report through the Committee to the General Assembly at its 80th session.

Meetings

The Committee holds biennial formal sessions, most recently in July 2025 in New York.

Membership

Originally 15 members, the Committee has been progressively enlarged, most recently by GA res. 34/80 (1979). Further changes to membership were brought about by the reunification of Germany; General Assembly resolutions regarding the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and the 6 April 1990 withdrawal from the Committee of France, UK and USA. The Committee now comprises 43 members.

Members (43)

Australia (Vice-Chair)
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia (Vice-Chair)
Iran
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar (Rapporteur)
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius
Mozambique (Vice-Chair)
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia
Sri Lanka (Chair)
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
UAE
UR of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Observers

Nepal
South Africa
Sweden

Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996

Website: http://legal.un.org/committees/terrorism

The Committee was established in 1996 to develop an international convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings and, subsequently, an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, to supplement related existing international instruments, and thereafter to address means of further developing a comprehensive legal framework of conventions dealing with international terrorism (GA res. 51/210 (1996)). It negotiated several texts, resulting in the adoption of three treaties: the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997); the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999); and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005). By the end of 2000, work had begun on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The Ad Hoc Committee last met in 2013 (A/68/37). It is not envisaged that the Committee will meet in 2025. At its last meeting in 2013, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that more time was required to achieve substantive progress on outstanding issues. Taking this into account, the General Assembly recommended (res. 68/119 (2013)) that the Sixth Committee, at the 69th session of the General Assembly, establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations (see GA res. 54/110 (2000)). Since the 69th session (2014), work has continued in the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly. The Working Group has been established annually, most recently in GA res. 79/129 (2024) for the 80th session (2025–26). Resolutions are listed on the website.

Committee on Conferences

Website: www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/coc

Purpose

The Committee advises the General Assembly on all matters pertaining to the organization of UN conferences. Its mandate includes:

- Planning and coordinating conferences and meetings in close consultation with the Secretariat and all relevant bodies, and avoiding overlapping of meetings in the same sector of activity, wherever possible
- Recommending to the General Assembly a draft calendar of conferences and dealing with administrative and financial implications of departures from the approved calendar
- Recommending the best use of conference-servicing resources, including the introduction of new technology for interpretation, translation, meetings and documentation
- Advising on current and future conference-servicing requirements and means to ensure improved coordination of conferences within the UN system
- Monitoring the organization's policy on publications.

The Committee was established by GA res. 3351 (XXIX) (1974). GA res. 43/222 (B) (1988) retained the Committee as a permanent subsidiary organ, set the membership at 21 and contains the Committee's terms of reference.

Meetings

The Committee meets in New York, holding an annual organizational session in the northern hemisphere spring and an annual substantive session in the northern hemisphere fall. Additionally, the Committee is entitled to meet on an 'as required' basis to consider matters that may be deemed urgent.

Membership

Members are appointed by the General Assembly President, after consultations with the regional group Chairs, for three-year terms. The 21 members are appointed on the basis of geographical distribution: six members from African states, five from Asia–Pacific states, four from Latin American and Caribbean states, two from Eastern European states, and four from Western European and Other states. One-third of the Committee's membership retires annually. Retiring members are eligible for reappointment. The Committee's Bureau consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur, representing all UN regional groups. The Committee agreed at its 1999 substantive session to a procedure for the participation of observers in its work.

Members (21)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025
Austria
China
Djibouti
Egypt
Guatemala
Japan
USA

Term ends 31 Dec 2026
Argentina
Botswana
France
Philippines
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Sri Lanka

Term ends 31 Dec 2027
Brazil
Congo
Hungary
Iran
Mali
Paraguay
Portugal

Bureau 2025

Chair
Hussein Roshdy, Egypt

Vice-Chairs
Mohammad Taghi Amrollahi, Iran
Johanna Bischof, Austria
Nikoletta Csók, Hungary

Rapporteur
Maria Gloria B Sanabria de Montiel, Paraguay

Committee on Information

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/coi

Purpose

The Committee was established by the General Assembly to deal with questions relating to public information. It is responsible for overseeing the work of the Department of Global Communications and providing it with guidance on policies, programmes and activities.

Evolution

The Committee was originally established by GA res. 33/115C (1978) to review UN public information policies and activities. It comprised 41 Member States appointed by the General Assembly President, after consultation with regional groups, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. It was mandated to report to the General Assembly on the policies and activities of the UN public information services.

GA res. 34/182 (1979) changed the Committee's name to the UN Committee on Information, and its membership was increased to 66. Membership has increased further over the years and now stands at 124.

Meetings

The Committee usually meets annually in New York in April/May.

Membership

The Committee is an open-ended body, and any UN Member State can request membership by applying through the Secretariat. The Committee reached an agreement in 1980 to apply the principle of geographical rotation to all officers and that they would be elected for two-year terms.

Members (124)

African states

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
DR Congo
Egypt
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Morocco
Mozambique
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia–Pacific states

Bangladesh
China
Cyprus
DPRK
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Malaysia
Mongolia
Nepal
Oman
Pakistan
Philippines
Qatar
ROK
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Syrian AR
Thailand
Viet Nam
Yemen

Eastern European states

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czechia
Estonia
Georgia
Hungary
Latvia
Poland
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean states

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Western European and Other states

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Luxembourg

continued next page

Malta
Monaco
Netherlands
Portugal
Spain
Switzerland
Türkiye
UK
USA

Office holders 2025–26

Chair
Rein Tammsaar, Estonia

Vice-Chair
Youssouf Aden Moussa, Djibouti
Carmen Rosa Rios, Bolivia
Rawa Zoghbi, Lebanon

Vice-Chair–Rapporteur
Alyson Calem Sangiorgio, Monaco

Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/about/subsidiary/committees.shtml

Purpose

The Committee deals with questions related to the relationship between the UN and the host country, including, amongst other things, the implementation of the Agreement between the UN and USA regarding UN Headquarters (the 'Headquarters Agreement'); privileges and immunities, including the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the UN ('the Convention'); and the security of missions accredited to the UN and the safety of their staff. The Secretary-General may also bring to the Committee's attention issues of mutual concern relating to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement and the Convention.

The Committee was established by GA res. 2819 (XXVI) (1971), which determined its terms of reference, and replaced the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations, which had been reconvened under GA res. 2618 (XXIV) (1969). In May 1992, the Committee adopted a detailed list of topics for its consideration, which was modified slightly in March 1994. The list of topics is set out in annex I to the Committee's annual report. Its most recent report (A/79/26) was endorsed by GA res. 79/130 (2024).

Meetings

The Committee holds meetings throughout the year.

Membership

The Committee originally comprised the host country and 14 Member States chosen by the General Assembly President. GA res. 53/104 (1998) increased the Committee's membership by four (one each from African, Asia–Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean, and Eastern European states), bringing the total membership to 19. The Committee is chaired by the Permanent Representative of Cyprus.

Members (19)

African states
Côte d'Ivoire (Vice-Chair)
Libya
Mali
Senegal

Asia–Pacific states
China
Cyprus (Chair)
Iraq
Malaysia

Eastern European states
Bulgaria (Vice-Chair)
Hungary
Russian Federation

Latin American and Caribbean states
Costa Rica (Rapporteur)
Cuba
Honduras

Western European and Other states
Canada (Vice-Chair)
France
Spain
UK
USA

Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Website: www.un.org/unispal/committee/

Purpose

The Committee is exclusively devoted to the question of Palestine. It is mandated by the General Assembly to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to support the peace process for the achievement of the two-state solution on the basis of pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues, and to mobilize assistance to the Palestinian people.

The Committee was established by GA res. 3376 (XXX) (1975) to consider and recommend a programme that would enable the Palestinian people to exercise the rights recognized in GA res. 3236 (XXIX) (1974).

The Committee's mandate was most recently renewed in November 2022 by GA res. 77/24 (2022), with an amendment that it should thereafter be reviewed only as necessary. The resolution also requested the Committee continue to exert all efforts to support the Middle East peace process and mobilize international support for, and assistance to, the Palestinian people (GA res. 69/20 (2014)). The General Assembly requested that the 75th anniversary of the Nakba be commemorated on 15 May 2023 (GA res. 77/23 (2022)). The General Assembly mandated the Committee to keep under review the question of Palestine, and to report and make suggestions toward its resolution to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General as appropriate. It also authorized the Committee to adjust its approved Programme of Work as it considered appropriate and necessary. It further requested the Committee to work with Palestinian and other civil society organizations to reach a peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and realize the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

The Committee, through statements delivered by its Chair, regularly participates in Security Council Quarterly Open Debates on the Palestinian Question and presents its position and recommendations.

The Committee is serviced by the Division for Palestinian Rights in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. Its annual Programme of Work, Annual Report to the General Assembly and other information can be found at www.un.org/unispal/.

Meetings

The Committee holds several formal and informal meetings over the course of the year, including an annual opening session in New York at the beginning of the year to elect its Bureau and adopt its annual Programme of Work. It holds a high-level special session on 29 November on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, encouraging Member States to give the widest support and send messages of solidarity. In connection with this commemoration, the Committee also organizes an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the UN.

The Committee organizes other meetings and conferences across the globe, as well as virtual events, which bring together diplomatic representatives of UN Member States, parliamentarians, international experts, scholars and civil society to raise awareness about the question of Palestine and discuss ways to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Additionally, the Committee carries out delegation visits to meet governments and civil society and implements a General Assembly-mandated annual capacity-building programme for staff of the Palestinian Government, in consultation with the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the UN in New York.

Membership

The Committee originally had 20 members. It now consists of 25 Member States and 24 observers. The State of Palestine participates in the work of the Bureau as an observer.

Members (25)

Afghanistan
Belarus
Bolivia
Cuba
Cyprus
Ecuador
Guinea
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Lao PDR
Madagascar
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Namibia
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tunisia
Türkiye
Venezuela

Observers (24)

African Union
Algeria
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
China
Egypt
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
League of Arab States
Lebanon
Libya
Mauritania
Morocco
Niger
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Sri Lanka
State of Palestine
Syrian AR
UAE
Viet Nam
Yemen

Bureau 2025

Chair
Coly Seck, Senegal

Vice-Chairs
Neville Melvin Gertze, Namibia
Jaime Hermida Castillo, Nicaragua
Arrmanatha C Nasir, Indonesia
Ernesto Soberón Guzman, Cuba

Vice-Chair–Rapporteur
Ahmad Faisal Muhamad, Malaysia

Division for Palestinian Rights

As mandated by the General Assembly, the Division for Palestinian Rights of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs serves as a secretariat to the Committee, including its Bureau, substantively supporting its proceedings and the implementation of its programme of work. This includes planning and implementing international meetings, conferences and delegation visits, maintaining liaison with civil society groups, organizing the annual observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, as well as the Committee's capacity-building programme. The Division for Palestinian Rights also monitors political and other relevant developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, drafts documentation for consideration of the Committee, including its annual report to the General Assembly, and develops and maintains the website 'The Question of Palestine', including the UN Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL), as well as the Committee's social media advocacy channels.

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)

Website: www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html

Purpose

COPUOS was set up as a permanent body in 1959 by the General Assembly (res. 1472 (XIV)). It succeeded the 18-nation ad hoc committee of the same name established by GA res. 1348 (XIII) (1958). It is mandated to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace and development. The Committee is also tasked with reviewing international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, studying space-related activities that could be undertaken by the UN, encouraging space research programmes, and studying legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space.

COPUOS has been instrumental in developing key frameworks of international space law, including five treaties on outer space, which provide rules of the road for space activities and lay out the basis for preserving the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In 2019, the Committee adopted the preamble and 21 Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. In 2021, the Space2030 agenda and its implementation plan agreed through COPUOS were adopted by the General Assembly (GA res. 76/3 (2021)) to chart the way to enhance the contribution of space and its applications to sustainable development. In 2022, COPUOS's work resulted in the adoption of GA res. 77/120 (2022) on space and global health.

The Committee has two standing sub-committees: Scientific and Technical; and Legal.

Meetings

The Committee usually meets annually in Vienna, Austria, in June. The 68th session took place from 25 June to 4 July 2025. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee meet annually, usually in February and April, respectively.

Membership

The Committee originally comprised 24 members whose terms of office expired at the end of 1961. The General Assembly decided to continue the Committee and increase its membership to 28 (GA res. 1721 (XVI) (1961)). Membership has since increased further, most recently from 102 to 104 (GA decisions 79/519 A and 79/519 B (2024)).

Members (104)

African states

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Chad
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Libya
Mauritius
Morocco
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Tunisia

Asia–Pacific states

Bahrain
Bangladesh
China
Cyprus
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Malaysia
Mongolia
Oman
Pakistan
Philippines
Qatar
ROK
Saudi Arabia

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Singapore
Sri Lanka
Syrian AR
Thailand
UAE
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam

Eastern European states

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bulgaria
Czechia
Hungary
Latvia
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Slovenia
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean states

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

Western European and Other states

Australia
Austria
Belgium
Canada
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Israel
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Türkiye
UK
USA

Bureau 2025 (68th session) and Subcommittee Chairs 2025

Chair
Rafiq Akram, Morocco

First Vice-Chair
Juan Francisco Facetti, Paraguay

Second Vice-Chair and Rapporteur
Hesa Al-Khalifa, Bahrain

Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (62nd session)
Ulpia-Elena Botezatu, Romania

Chair of the Legal Subcommittee (64th session)
Santiago Ripol Carulla, Spain

Conference on Disarmament (CD)

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 2281
Email: cd@un.org

Website: https://disarmament.unoda.org/conference-on-disarmament
Secretary-General and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the CD: Tatiana Valovaya, Russian Federation (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2019)

Purpose

The Conference on Disarmament was established in 1979 as the single multilateral disarmament-negotiating forum of the international community. It was established as a result of the UN General Assembly's first Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD I), which was held in 1978. The Conference succeeded other Geneva-based disarmament-negotiating bodies, which included the Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament (1960), Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament (1962–68) and the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (1969–78).

The CD and its predecessors have negotiated major multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof (Sea-Bed Treaty) and the Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (ENMOD).

The Conference's agenda since 1997 has included: cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters; prevention of an arms race in outer space; effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons including radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and transparency in armaments. At the beginning of its annual session, and taking into account General Assembly recommendations and proposals from its members, the Conference adopts its agenda (for 2025, CD/2442).

The Conference is funded from the UN regular budget, holds its meetings on UN premises and is supported by the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. It conducts its work by consensus and submits its annual report to the UN General Assembly.

Meetings

The Conference's annual session, held in Geneva, is divided into three parts of 10, seven and seven weeks under a presidency that rotates among the membership every four working weeks, following the English alphabetical list of membership. The Conference pursues its mandate in plenary meetings, as well as under any additional arrangements agreed by the Conference and according to its own Rules of Procedure (CD/8/Rev.10).

Membership

The Conference originally had 40 members. Membership has expanded and is currently 65. Rules 33–35 of the Rules of Procedure provide that states not members of the Conference may request, in writing through the President, to follow its work as observers.

Members (65)

Algeria
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Cuba
DPRK
DR Congo
Ecuador
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Germany
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Malaysia
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
ROK
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Slovakia

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South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian AR
Tunisia
Türkiye
Ukraine
UK
USA
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34)

Website: https://peacekeeping.un.org

Purpose

The Committee was established by GA res. 2006 (XIX) (1965) to conduct a comprehensive review of all issues relating to peacekeeping. It reports to the General Assembly on its work through the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

Meetings

The Committee usually holds an annual substantive session in New York in February–March.

Membership

The Committee comprises 157 Member States, mostly past or current troop and financial contributors to peacekeeping operations. Other Member States, intergovernmental organizations and entities participate as observers.

Members (157)

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia
DR Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia

Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
ROK
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian AR
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tunisia
Türkiye
Uganda
Ukraine
UAE
UK
UR of Tanzania
USA
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Observers (6)

Holy See
African Union
European Union
International Criminal Court
International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
International Organization of la Francophonie

Bureau for 2025

Chair
To be advised, Nigeria

Vice-Chairs
Michael Gort, Canada
Takayuki Iriya, Japan
Michal Miarka, Poland
Francisco Tropepi, Argentina

Rapporteur
Mohamed Soliman, Egypt

Special Committee on the Charter of the UN and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Website: http://legal.un.org/committees/charter/

Purpose

The Special Committee was initially established in 1974 under GA res. 3349 (XXIX) as an ad hoc committee to consider, amongst other things, any specific proposals that governments might make with a view to enhancing the ability of the UN to achieve its purposes as well as other suggestions for the more effective functioning of the UN that might not require amendments to the Charter. It was reconvened under GA res. 3499 (XXX) (1975) as the Special Committee on the Charter.

The Committee's mandate has been renewed annually by the General Assembly since then, most recently by GA res. 79/125 (2024). Its current mandate includes the consideration of proposals concerning the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Meetings

The Committee holds one session a year over seven days in New York at the end of February.

Membership

Under GA res. 50/52 (1995), the Committee's membership was expanded to include all Member States. It has a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur, representing the UN regional groups, and an open-ended working group with the same chair and officers as the Committee.

Bureau (elected in February 2025)

Chair
Nathaniel Khng, Singapore

Vice-Chairs
Elisa De Raes, Belgium
Amanuel Giorgio, Eritrea
Eduardo Manuel López Echevarria, Peru

Rapporteur
Eliza Grisle, Latvia

Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Committee of 24 or C24)

Website: www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/c24/about

Purpose

The Committee was established by the General Assembly in 1961 to monitor the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (GA res. 1514 (XV) (1960)).

The Committee annually reviews the list of territories to which the Declaration is applicable and makes recommendations on its implementation and on the dissemination of public information on decolonization. It also hears statements from Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs), dispatches visiting missions and organizes seminars on the political, social and economic situation in the territories.

The Committee is also known as the Special Committee on Decolonization, Committee of 24 or C24, although it now has 29 members.

Territories on the Committee's agenda

American Samoa
Anguilla
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)*
French Polynesia
Gibraltar
Guam
Montserrat
New Caledonia
Pitcairn
Saint Helena
Tokelau
Turks and Caicos Islands
United States Virgin Islands
Western Sahara

Meetings

The Committee holds its main session in New York in June and an annual seminar intended to be held in the Caribbean and Pacific alternately. In 2025, the seminar was held in Dili, Timor-Leste.

Membership

Originally comprising 17 members, the Committee was enlarged to 24 by GA res. 1810 (XVII) (1962). The membership increased again in 1979, 2004, 2008 and 2010 and now stands at 29.

Members (29)

Antigua and Barbuda
Bolivia
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Dominica
Ecuador
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Mali
Nicaragua
Papua New Guinea
Russian Federation
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Sierra Leone
Syrian AR
Timor-Leste
Tunisia
UR of Tanzania
Venezuela

Bureau 2025

Chair
Menissa Rambally, Saint Lucia

Vice-Chairs
Michael Imran Kanu, Sierra Leone
Hari Prabowo, Indonesia
Ernesto Soberon Guzman, Cuba

Rapporteur
Koussay Aldahhak, Syrian AR

Note

* A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the UK concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/countries/palestine/special-committee-reports

Purpose

GA res. 2443 (XXIII) (1968) established the Special Committee, composed of three Member States appointed by the General Assembly President.

The occupied territories are considered those remaining under Israeli occupation since 1967, namely, the occupied Syrian Golan and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which comprises the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The Special Committee is mandated by the GA until the complete termination of the Israeli occupation. The GA issues a biannual resolution to confirm this mandate, most recently GA res. 78/76 (2023). Its reports are available on the website.

Members

Jayantha Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka (Chair)
Ahmad Faisal Muhamad, Malaysia
Cheikh Niang, Senegal

UN Conciliation Commission for Palestine

Purpose

GA res. 194 (III) (1948) established the Commission to:

- Help with the repatriation of refugees
- Arrange for compensation for the property of those choosing not to return
- Assist Israel and the Arab states to achieve a final settlement of all questions outstanding.

GA res. 79/89 (2024) requested the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps, in consultation with the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine, for the protection of Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel.

Membership

The Commission members are France, Türkiye and the USA. As set out in GA res. 194 (III) (1948), they were selected by a committee of the General Assembly consisting of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC)

Website: https://disarmament.unoda.org/institutions/disarmament-commission/
Secretary: Alexander Lomaia

Purpose

The UNDC was created under the Security Council by GA res. 502 (VI) in 1952, and re-established as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly in 1978 at its 10th special session, the first devoted to disarmament (GA res. S-10/2 para. 118). It was created as a deliberative body to consider and make recommendations on disarmament problems, and to follow up decisions and recommendations of the 10th Special Session. GA res. 37/78H (1982) requested the UNDC direct its attention to specific subjects, taking into account the relevant General Assembly resolutions, and to make concrete recommendations to each General Assembly session. In 1998, the General Assembly decided that, from 2000, the UNDC's agenda would normally comprise two substantive items, with one on nuclear disarmament, which are then debated for three consecutive years (decision 52/492).

The UNDC operates by way of plenary meetings and working groups. The number of working groups depends on the number of substantive items on its agenda. The Commission's agenda items for the 2024 substantive session were: (a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and (b) Preparation of recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security.

In April 2017 the UNDC's Working Group II adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5 and a text entitled 'Recommendations on practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons' (A/72/42). In April 2023, the UNDC's Working Group II adopted by consensus its report on agenda item 5 and a text entitled 'Recommendations to promote the practical implementation of the transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities with the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space' (A/78/42).

Meetings

The UNDC meets for three weeks annually, usually in New York. Due to disagreement on organizational matters, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNDC did not hold its substantive session in the years 2019–21. It resumed official meetings with its substantive session in April 2022, and its most recent session was held in April 2025.

Membership

All UN Member States are members of the UNDC, and the five regional groups take turns as the Chair. Working Group Chairs are selected in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Office holders for the 2025 session

Chair
José Pereira, Paraguay

Vice-Chairs
Amr Essam, Egypt
Mahmud Mohammed Lawal, Nigeria
Vivica Münkner, Germany

Rapporteur
Syed Atif Raza, Pakistan

Chair of Working Group I
Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons
Akaki Dvali, Georgia

Chair of Working Group II
Recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security
Julia Elizabeth Rodríguez Acosta, El Salvador

UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)

Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
A–1400 Vienna
Austria

Telephone: +43 1 26060 4330
Fax: +43 1 26060 5902

Website: www.unscear.org
Secretary: Paul Egerton, UK

Purpose

UNSCEAR was established by GA res. 913 (X) (1955). The resolution requested that the Committee receive and evaluate radiological information furnished by UN Member States or members of the specialized agencies, and summarize reports received on radiation levels and radiation effects.

The Committee submits annual progress reports to the General Assembly and periodically publishes comprehensive scientific annexes to these reports. These contain systematic assessments of all major sources of exposure to ionizing radiation. They have provided the scientific basis that has prompted significant worldwide reductions in unnecessary radiation exposure, and continue to underpin the risk management programmes of international bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), World Health Organization (WHO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Committee also conducts periodic evaluations of the evidence for radiation-induced health effects from survivors of the atomic bombings in Japan in 1945 and other exposed groups. It has published landmark reports on the levels and effects of exposure to ionizing radiation following the accidents at Chornobyl and Fukushima nuclear power stations. It has evaluated advances in scientific understanding of the mechanisms by which radiation effects can occur. These assessments provided the scientific foundation used by the relevant agencies in the UN system in formulating international radiation protection standards and other instruments.

Meetings

The Committee usually meets annually in Vienna during the second quarter for five days.

Membership

Originally 15, the membership of UNSCEAR has gradually increased, most recently by GA res. 76/75 (2021), to 31 scientists representing their Member States. The Bureau comprises five officers elected to serve for two sessions, as well as three ex officio advisers: the Committee's immediate past Chair, the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary.

Members (31)

African states
Algeria
Egypt
Sudan

Asia–Pacific states
China
India
Indonesia
Iran
Japan
Pakistan
ROK
UAE

Eastern European states
Belarus
Poland
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean states
Argentina
Brazil
Mexico
Peru

Western European and Other states
Australia
Belgium
Canada
Finland
France
Germany
Norway
Spain
Sweden
UK
USA

Office holders 71st and 72nd sessions (2024–25)

Chair
Sarah Baatout, Belgium

Vice-Chairs
Ayda Al Shehhi, UAE
Anssi Auvinen, Finland
Reiko Kanda, Japan

Rapporteur
Carol Robinson, Norway

Working Group on the Financing of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Purpose

The General Assembly established the Working Group (GA res. 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970) to study all aspects of the financing of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Working Group to assist the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA in reaching solutions to problems posed by the Agency's financial crisis.

Each year, the General Assembly has endorsed the Working Group's efforts and requested it to continue, most recently in GA res. 78/73 (2023). In December 2024, at the 10th Emergency Special Session, the Assembly adopted GA res. ES-10/25, taking note of the Working Group's report.

Membership

On 11 December 1970, the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Secretary-General and pursuant to para. 2 of GA res. 2656 (XXV), designated the following nine members of the Working Group.

Members (9)*

France	Lebanon	Türkiye (Chair)
Ghana	Norway (Rapporteur)	UK
Japan	Trinidad and Tobago	USA*

Note

* The USA ceased participation in the Working Group on 7 July 2025.

UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (Informal Consultative Process)

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–0450
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3962
Email: doalos@un.org

Website: www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm

Purpose

The purpose of the Informal Consultative Process is to facilitate the UN General Assembly's annual review of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by the General Assembly, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced.

The General Assembly created the Informal Consultative Process in 1999 (GA res. 54/33), consistent with the legal framework provided by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, following a review by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the sectoral theme of 'Oceans and Seas'. The Process has been extended regularly, most recently by GA res. 78/69 (2023).

Meetings

The Informal Consultative Process meets once a year to consider a topic or topics identified in the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea. The 25th meeting, held in June 2025, focused on the topic 'Capacity building and the transfer of marine technology: New developments, approaches and challenges'.

Membership

The Informal Consultative Process is open to all UN Member States, states members of the specialized agencies and parties to the Convention. It is also open to entities that have a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly and to intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs. The format of the Informal Consultative Process provides the opportunity to receive input from representatives of the major groups identified in Agenda 21, particularly through discussion panels.

Co-Chairs

Appointed by the President of the General Assembly for the 25th meeting (June 2025)

François Jackman, Barbados
Anna Jóhannsdóttir, Iceland

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Preparatory Commission for the entry into force of the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–0450
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3962
Email: doalos@un.org

Website: www.un.org/bbnjagreement

Purpose

In GA res. 78/272 of 24 April 2024, the General Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Commission to prepare for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, and to prepare for the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, at the conclusion of which the Commission will cease to exist.

The BBNJ Agreement's adoption on 19 June 2023 (A/CONF.232/2023/4) marked a historic achievement in efforts to ensure the health and resilience of ocean ecosystems, and to level the playing field in the capacity to participate in and benefit from activities in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The third implementing agreement to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, it was the outcome of nearly 20 years of discussions in different formats. Background information is available on the website under 'History'.

The Agreement is open for signature by all Member States and regional economic integration organizations from 20 September 2023 to 20 September 2025, and will enter into force 120 days after the date of deposit of the 60th instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession. As at 1 July 2025, there were 137 signatories and 51 ratifications.

Article 50 of the BBNJ Agreement establishes a secretariat, and provides that the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement, at its first meeting, shall make arrangements for the functioning of the secretariat, including deciding on its seat. Until the secretariat commences its functions, the UN Secretary-General, through the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) of the United Nations Secretariat, shall perform the secretariat functions under the Agreement.

Meetings

The Preparatory Commission held its organizational meeting from 24 to 26 June 2024 in New York, at which it elected a Bureau comprising two Co-Chairs and 15 Vice-Chairs. The first substantive session took place in April 2025. The second session was scheduled to be held from 18 to 29 August 2025, and the third from 23 March to 2 April 2026.

Membership

The Preparatory Commission is open to all UN Member States, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. GA res. 78/272 also lists a range of other organizations and entities who may participate as observers.

Co-Chairs

Janine Coye-Felson, Belize

Adam McCarthy, Australia

Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

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Email: doalos@un.org
X: @undoalos
Instagram: @undoalos
Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-world-ocean-assessment/

Website: www.un.org/regularprocess/

Purpose

The General Assembly established the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process) in 2004, following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa (GA res. 57/141). Through its main outputs, such as the World Ocean Assessments and its coherent capacity-building programme, the Regular Process aims to reinforce the science–policy interface by providing a scientific basis for informed decisions on ocean issues by governments and other policy makers.

The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process (the Working Group) was initially established in 2008 (GA res. 63/111). Its role is to oversee and guide the Regular Process. The General Assembly also established a Group of Experts, consisting of 25 members from all regions of the world, to be an integral part of the Regular Process. The Group of Experts is assisted by a wider Pool of Experts, composed of more than 1500 members nominated by states, recommended by intergovernmental organizations or self-recommended.

The first cycle of the Regular Process ran from 2010 to 2014. The summary of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment I or WOA I) was issued as an official document of the General Assembly (A/70/112) on 22 July 2015, and approved by the Assembly in December 2015 (GA res. 70/235).

The second cycle of the Regular Process ran from 2016 to 2020. The summary of the second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) was issued as an official document of the General Assembly (A/75/232/Rev.1) and approved by the Assembly in December 2020 (GA res. 75/239), and WOA II was launched on 21 April 2021. In accordance with the programme of work 2017–20 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, three technical abstracts of WOA I were prepared by the Group of Experts in 2017, on: the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the ocean and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the impacts of climate change and related changes in the atmosphere on the oceans.

The third cycle of the Regular Process was launched by the General Assembly in December 2019, to cover the five-year period from 2021 to 2025. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle (A/75/362), one of its main outputs will be the production of the Third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III). In addition, the Regular Process has continued to provide support for and interaction with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including through the development of a series of policy briefs outlining relevant information from WOA II for the benefit of policy makers and other stakeholders, on: climate change; marine biodiversity; SDG14 – life below water; and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The third cycle also includes a coherent capacity-building programme with the aim of strengthening the ocean science–policy interface at national, regional and global levels.

The fourth cycle of the Regular Process was launched by the General Assembly in December 2024, to cover the five-year period from 2026 to 2030 (GA res. 79/144, para. 333). The draft programme of work and preliminary resource requirements for the fourth cycle are being developed, pursuant to GA res. 79/144, paras. 333 and 335.

Evolution

The General Assembly launched the 'Assessment of Assessments' as the start-up phase of the Regular Process (GA resolutions 58/240 (2003) and 60/30 (2005)). In December 2009, it endorsed the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole that proposed a framework for the Regular Process (GA res. 64/71). In December 2010, the General Assembly endorsed recommendations (A/64/347) that proposed modalities for implementing the Regular Process, including the key features, institutional arrangements, capacity-building and financing (GA res. 65/37). The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea was designated to provide secretariat support to the Regular Process.

The programme of work for the third cycle was approved by GA res. 75/239 (2020). The Group of Experts for the third cycle was constituted in 2021, and an updated mechanism to establish the Pool of Experts for the third cycle was issued by the 15th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. The same meeting also considered the Terms of Reference for the National and Intergovernmental Focal Points, both aimed at facilitating the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle.

Regional workshops in support of the first cycle of the Regular Process took place between 2011 and 2014, and workshops in support of the second cycle in 2017 and 2018. For the third cycle, the first round of regional workshops to support the development of WOA III and on capacity-building took place in 2022, hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania, Jamaica, Argentina, the Netherlands and Indonesia. The second round, aimed at collecting regional-level information and data for the development of WOA III and strengthening the research–policy interface, took place in 2023, hosted by Brazil, Jamaica, Seychelles, Portugal and USA. More information is available on the website.

Meetings

The Working Group has held 21 meetings in New York between February 2011 and September 2024.

Membership

The meetings of the Working Group are open to UN Member States and observers, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, and relevant scientific institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21 that request an invitation to participate (GA res. 65/37 A). The Working Group's 15-member Bureau meets on a regular basis. Its two co-chairs represent developed and developing countries and are appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with regional groups.

Co-Chairs (as at July 2025)

Kimberly K Louis, Saint Lucia

Bahia Tahzib-Lie, Netherlands

Bureau (as at July 2025)

African states
Ghana
Kenya
UR of Tanzania

Asia–Pacific states
China
ROK
Sri Lanka

Eastern European states
Bulgaria
Estonia
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean states
Argentina
Chile
Ecuador

Western European and Other states
Greece
Spain
USA

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons

Website: http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group

Purpose

The Working Group was established in December 2010 by GA res. 65/182. Its role was to consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including the feasibility of further instruments and measures. By GA res. 67/139 (2012), the mandate also included consideration of proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons.

At its 14th session, in May 2024, the Working Group adopted decision 14/1, 'Recommendations regarding the identification of possible gaps in the protection of the human rights of older persons and how best to address them', as contained in its report on the 14th session (A/AC.278/2024/2). In August 2024, the General Assembly decided that the Working Group had completed its work (GA res. 78/324), and in December 2024, it decided to formally conclude the Working Group's mandate (GA res. 79/147).

Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council

GA res. 48/26 (1993) established an open-ended working group to consider all aspects of the question of an increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council.

The Working Group's mandate has usually been renewed annually for the General Assembly's upcoming session, but only to convene if Member States so decided.

Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/ahwg.shtml

Purpose

The General Assembly, at its 60th session and continuously since its 62nd session, has annually established an Ad Hoc Working Group tasked with identifying ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly. The Ad Hoc Working Group's mandate was most recently renewed for the Assembly's 78th and 79th sessions by GA res. 77/335 (2023), which also decided that the mandate should be considered at the 79th session and biennially thereafter.

Co-chairs

Cornel Feruță, Romania
Mathu Joyini, South Africa

ADVISORY BODIES

Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

United Nations
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 917 367 3596
Email: unoda-web@un.org

Website: https://disarmament.unoda.org/institutions/advisoryboard
Secretary: Suzanne Oosterwijk

Purpose

The functions of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters are to:

- Advise the Secretary-General on arms limitation and disarmament matters, including studies and research under the auspices of the UN or institutions within the UN
- Serve as the Board of Trustees of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
- Advise the Secretary-General on implementation of the UN Disarmament Information Programme.

The Board was established in 1978 under paragraph 124 of the Final Document of the 10th Special Session of the General Assembly (GA res. S-10/2). It received its current mandate through GA decision 54/418 (1999).

Meetings

The Board holds two sessions a year, alternating between Geneva and New York.

Membership

The Secretary-General chooses the Board's members from all regions of the world for their knowledge and experience in the field of disarmament and international security. Members participate in their individual expert capacity. There are currently 15 members. The UNIDIR Director is an ex officio member. The Chair rotates by region.

Members, 83rd and 84th sessions, 2025 (15)

Nabeela Abdulla Almulla, Kuwait
Thompson Chengeta, Zimbabwe
Dong Zhihua, China
Rose Gottemoeller, USA
Jean-Marie Guéhenno, France
Mary Kaldor, UK
Anton Khlopkov, Russian Federation
Jina Kim, ROK
Federica Mogherini, Italy
Elina Noor, Malaysia
Eghosa Osaghae, Nigeria
Patryk Pawlak, Poland
Carolina Ricardo, Brazil
Shorna-Kay Richards, Jamaica (Chair)
D B Venkatesh Varma, India
Ex officio member: Robin Geiss, Germany (UNIDIR Director)

Advisory Committee on the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law

United Nations
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–0566
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 917 367 3154
Email: pallek@un.org

Website: https://legal.un.org/poa/
Secretary: Markus Pallek

Purpose

The General Assembly established a programme of assistance and exchange in the field of international law through GA res. 2099 (XX) (1965). This resolution set up the Committee to advise the Secretary-General on substantive aspects of the Programme. The Committee was given its current title by GA res. 2204 (XXI) (1966).

The Programme of Assistance was established to contribute to a better knowledge of international law. It provides direct assistance by means of the:

- International Law Fellowship Programme
- Regional Courses in International Law for Africa, Asia–Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean
- Audiovisual Library of International Law, which was launched in October 2008
- Preparation and dissemination of publications and other information relating to international law.

The General Assembly authorized the Programme's continuation annually until its 26th session, then every two years, then again annually since its 64th session in 2009–10 (GA res. 64/113). The Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Programme and is then authorized to carry out activities in subsequent years.

The Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs is responsible for implementing the Programme.

Membership

GA res. 78/107 (2023) appointed 25 Member States to serve on the Committee for the four years 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027.

Members (25)

African states
Equatorial Guinea
Ethiopia
Ghana
Kenya
Nigeria
South Africa

Asia–Pacific states
Iran
Lebanon
Malaysia
Philippines
Singapore

Eastern European states
Poland
Russian Federation
Slovakia

Latin American and Caribbean states
Chile
Colombia
El Salvador
Mexico
Trinidad and Tobago

Western European and Other states
Canada
France
Israel
Italy
Portugal
USA

Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC)

United Nations
405 East 42nd Street, Room S-21FWS
Secretariat Building
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 0788
Email: bamuwamye@un.org

Website: www.un.org/ga/iaac/
Executive Secretary: Moses Bamuwamye

Purpose

The IAAC was established by GA res. 60/248 (2005) as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly to serve in an expert advisory capacity and assist the General Assembly in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities.

The Committee's responsibilities are to provide independent advice to the General Assembly on: the scope, results and effectiveness of audit as well as other oversight functions, especially the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS); measures to ensure the compliance of management with audit and other oversight recommendations; and on various risk management, internal control, operational, accounting and disclosure issues.

The terms of reference for the IAAC were established in GA res. 61/275 (2007) and the new body started functioning in January 2008. The General Assembly reviewed the terms of reference in 2010, 2015 and 2023 and no changes were made (GA resolutions 65/250, 70/111 and 78/247). In April 2023, the General Assembly approved a new mandate for the Committee, aimed at strengthening the independence of the Ethics Office and including an enhanced role for the Committee, to strengthen the accountability framework (GA res. 77/278).

Meetings

The IAAC meets up to four times a year, usually in New York.

Membership

The IAAC consists of five members, who serve three-year terms, renewable at least once. Members are appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, and serve in their personal capacities as experts in financial, audit and/or other oversight-related activities.

Members (5)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Dorothy A Bradley, Belize

Anton V Kosyanenko, Russian Federation (Chair)

Suresh Sharma, Nepal (Vice-Chair)

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Jeanette Franzel, USA

Eric O Osae, Ghana

EXPERT BODIES

Board of Auditors

2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–21st Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 2451
Fax: +1 212 963 3684
Email: lee6@un.org

Website: www.un.org/auditors/board/
Executive Secretary: Sejong Lee

Purpose

The General Assembly established the Board to audit the accounts of the UN and its funds and programmes, and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). It submits reports to the General Assembly annually or every two years, depending on the financial regulations and rules adopted by the respective organizations. The Board was established in 1946 by GA res. 74 (I).

The Board is responsible for the audit of 25 UN organizations and four Special Projects. With the concurrence of ACABQ, the Board allocates and rotates assignments among individual members. However, responsibility for the Board's reports is collegial.

Structure

The Board is composed of the Auditors-General (or officers holding the equivalent title) of three UN Member States. To enable the Board to carry out its mandate, an Audit Operations Committee was established at UN Headquarters. This comprises three full-time Directors of External Audit, each representing a member of the Board. In addition to a full-time director and deputy director stationed in New York, each member provides audit staff from their national audit office to conduct audits at various UN locations. For the purpose of making a local or special examination, or for economies in the audit cost, the Board may engage the services of any national Auditor-General (or officer holding the equivalent title), commercial public auditors of known repute or any other person or firm that, in the opinion of the Board, is technically qualified.

Meetings

The Board meets twice a year, in a regular session in New York in July and in a special session in November/December, at a location determined by the Panel of External Auditors, usually alternating between New York and elsewhere.

Membership

The three Board members are appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee and retire by rotation. GA res. 55/248 (2001) approved a change in the term of office to a non-consecutive six years, beginning 1 July 2002. Previously, members were appointed for three-year terms, which were renewable.

Board members

Pierre Moscovici, First President of the Court of Accounts of France (term ends 30 June 2028) (Chair)

Hou Kai, Auditor General of the People's Republic of China (term ends 30 June 2026)

Vital do Rego Filho, President of the Brazilian Federal Court of Accounts (term ends 30 June 2030)

Panel of External Auditors

2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–21st Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 2451
Fax: +1 212 963 3684
Email: lee6@un.org

Website: www.un.org/en/auditors/panel/
Executive Secretary: Sejong Lee

Purpose

The main objectives of the Panel of External Auditors are to further the coordination of the audits for which its members are responsible and to exchange information on audit methods and findings. The Panel was established by GA res. 1438 (XIV) (1959).

The Panel may submit to the executive heads of the organizations audited any observations or recommendations it may wish to make in relation to the accounts and financial procedures of the organization concerned. The executive heads of the participating organizations may also, through their auditors, submit requests to the Panel for its opinion or recommendation on any matter within its competence.

Membership

The Panel comprises the members of the UN Board of Auditors and the external auditors of the UN specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The current members, their term of office expiry and organizations audited are listed on the website.

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel (since 1 January 2025)

Chair
Gareth Davies, Comptroller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Vice-Chair
Vital do Rego Filho, President of the Brazilian Federal Court of Accounts

International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)

ICSC Headquarters
2 United Nations Plaza, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3294
Fax: +1 212 963 0159

Website: http://icsc.un.org
Acting Executive Secretary: Yuri Orlov, Russian Federation

Purpose

The ICSC is responsible for the regulation and coordination of staff conditions of service within the UN, the specialized agencies and other international organizations that participate in the UN common system and accept the Commission's Statute.

The Commission also has some decision-making functions with respect to post-adjustment indices, daily subsistence allowances, methodologies to determine salary levels and job classification standards. For other compensation issues and on human resource matters, it makes recommendations to the General Assembly or the executive heads of the participating organizations. The ICSC was established by GA res. 3357 (XXIX) (1974).

Meetings

The full Commission meets twice a year.

Membership

The Commission comprises 15 independent experts, appointed in their individual capacities by, and answerable as a body to, the General Assembly. Due regard is given to broad geographical representation. Members are appointed for four years, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, from a list of candidates compiled by the Secretary-General. Members may be reappointed. The Chair and Vice-Chair serve in a full-time capacity and are based in New York.

Members (15)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Claudia A Bueno Reynaga, Mexico

Spyridon Flogaitis, Greece

Misako Kaji, Japan

Jeffrey Mounts, USA

Shauna Olney, Canada

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Andrew G Bangali, Sierra Leone

Xavier Bellmont Roldán, Spain

Ali Kurer, Libya

João Vargas, Brazil

Boguslaw Winid, Poland (Vice-Chair 2022–25)

Term ends 31 Dec 2028

Larbi Djacta, Algeria (Chair 2023–26)

Andrei Ivanov, Russian Federation

Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Bangladesh

Sun Xudong, China

El Hassane Zahid, Morocco

International Law Commission (ILC)

ILC Secretariat
Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza
323 East 44th Street, Room DC2–0566
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 5331
Fax: +1 212 963 1963
Email: 6thcommittee@un.org or ola-codification@un.org

Website: http://legal.un.org/ilc/

Purpose

The ILC was established by GA res. 174 (II) (1947) to encourage the progressive development and codification of international law.

The substantive items on its programme of work, as at July 2025, were:

- Immunity of state officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction
- Succession of states in respect of state responsibility
- General principles of law
- Settlement of disputes to which international organizations are parties
- Prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea
- Subsidiary means for the determination of rules of international law
- Non-legally binding international agreements
- Compensation for the damage caused by internationally wrongful acts
- Due diligence in international law.

The tenth edition of the publication 'Work of the International Law Commission', issued in 2023, reviews the Commission's work over more than seven decades.

Meetings

The Commission usually meets in Geneva in a split session each year, starting in the northern hemisphere spring and concluding in the summer.

Membership

The Commission's membership has been increased several times, most recently by GA res. 36/39 (1981), and now stands at 34. By GA res. 36/39 (1981), the General Assembly decided the members should be elected according to the following pattern: eight from African states, seven from Asia–Pacific states, three from Eastern European states, six from Latin American and Caribbean states, and eight from Western European and Other states; plus one from African or Eastern European states in rotation, and one from Asia–Pacific or Latin American and Caribbean states in rotation.

The regional group allocation for the current five-year term is: nine from African states, eight from Asia–Pacific states, three from Eastern European states, six from Latin American and Caribbean states, and eight from Western European and Other states.

Commission members are elected by the General Assembly for five-year terms[1] and are eligible for re-election. They are elected on a personal basis and sit in their personal capacities as experts. Casual vacancies during the term following resignation or death are filled by the Commission.

Members (34) 1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2027

Dapo Akande, UK
Carlos J Argüello-Goméz, Nicaragua
Masahiko Asada, Japan
Yacouba Cissé, Côte d'Ivoire
Ahmed Amin Fathalla, Egypt
Rolf Einar Fife, Norway
Mathias Forteau, France
George Rodrigo Bandeira Galindo, Brazil
Patrícia Galvão Teles, Portugal
Claudio Grossman Guiloff, Chile
Charles Chernor Jalloh, Sierra Leone
Ahmed Laraba, Algeria
Lee Keun-Gwan, ROK
Ma Xinmin, China[2]
Vilawan Mangklatanakul, Thailand
Andreas Mavroyiannis, Cyprus
Ivon Mingashang, DR Congo
Giuseppe Nesi, Italy
Hong Thao Nguyen, Viet Nam
Phoebe Okowa, Kenya
Nilüfer Oral, Türkiye
Alina Orosan, Romania[3]
Hassan Ouazzani Chahdi, Morocco
Mario Oyarzábal, Argentina
Mārtinš Paparinskis, Latvia
Bimal N Patel, India
August Reinisch, Austria
Penelope Ridings, New Zealand
Juan José Ruda Santolaria, Peru
Alioune Sall, Senegal
Louis Savadogo, Burkina Faso
Munkh-Orgil Tsend, Mongolia
Marcelo Vázquez-Bermúdez, Ecuador
Evgeny Zagaynov, Russian Federation

Notes

1 In accordance with GA decision 74/566 of 12 August 2020, the 2017–21 term of office was extended by one year, to 31 December 2022.

2 Elected in 2025 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Huang Huikang, China.

3 Elected in 2024 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Bogdan Aurescu, Romania.

Investments Committee

Purpose

The Investments Committee was established by GA res. 155 (II) (1947) to advise the Secretary-General on the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund and UN Library Endowment Fund investments.

Meetings

The Committee meets at least four times a year, including one meeting held in conjunction with the UN Joint Staff Pension Board. The meetings are normally held in New York or, on occasion, in another UN member country.

Membership

Investments Committee members are internationally respected for their in-depth knowledge and expertise in the investment and pension industries, and they are in a unique position to give up-to-date advice to the Secretary-General and the Representative of the Secretary-General on investment-related matters.

Committee members are appointed by the Secretary-General for three-year terms (renewable, but no more than 15 years in total), after consultation with the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). Appointments are recommended by the Fifth Committee and are subject to confirmation by the General Assembly.

In addition to the regular members, the Secretary-General may also appoint ad hoc members, who serve one-year terms, to broaden the expertise available to the Fund with regard to potential new asset classes and financial instruments, and to achieve wider geographical and gender representation.

Members (10)

Sarah Omotunde Alade, Nigeria (2024–26)
Yasir O Al-Rumayyan, Saudi Arabia (2024–26)
Jens Fricke, Germany (2023–25)
Keiko Honda, Japan (2025–27)
Natalia Khanjenkova, Russian Federation (2024–26)
Michael Klein, USA (2023–25)
Shan Li, China (2024–26)
Patricia Parise, Argentina (2024–26)
Luciane Ribeiro, Brazil (2023–25)
Macky Tall, Mali (2025)

Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 3044
Email: jiu_jointinspectionunit@un.org

Website: www.unjiu.org
Executive Secretary: Uren Pillay

Purpose

The JIU assists the legislative bodies of numerous UN organizations in meeting their governance responsibilities. JIU provides support in the context of these agencies' oversight function regarding human, financial and other resources. In its reports and notes, the Unit identifies best practices, proposes benchmarks and facilitates information-sharing throughout the organizations of the UN system that have adopted its Statute.

The JIU is the only independent external oversight body of the UN system mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations system-wide. Its inspectors have the broadest powers of investigation in all matters having a bearing on the efficiency of the services and the proper use of funds and, to these ends, may make on-the-spot inquiries and investigations. They are mandated to provide an independent view through inspections and evaluations aimed at improving management and methods and at achieving greater coordination between organizations.

The Unit began its work in 1968 following recommendations by the Ad hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies (GA res. 2150 (XXI) (1966) and as further confirmed in GA res. 2360 (XXII) (1967)). After eight years, the General Assembly approved the JIU Statute as the annex of GA res. 31/192 (1976). The JIU's mandate covers the UN, its separately administered funds and programmes, and the specialized agencies that have accepted the Statute. It reports to the General Assembly and is responsible to the competent legislative organs of its participating organizations. The JIU's budget is included in the regular UN budget as a jointly financed activity, with expenditure shared by its 28 participating organizations.

Meetings

The JIU holds an annual winter session, usually in two parts, one in December and the second in January, as well as a summer session in early July.

Membership

In accordance with chapter II of the JIU Statute, the Unit consists of no more than 11 inspectors, including a chair and vice-chair elected by the Unit each year. Inspectors are nominated by the General Assembly President and appointed by the Assembly based on their experience in national or international administrative and financial matters, including management questions, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution and reasonable rotation. They serve in their personal capacities for five-year terms that can be renewed once.

Inspectors (11)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Jesús Miranda Hita, Spain

Victor Moraru, Republic of Moldova

Gönke Roscher, Germany

Tesfa Alem Seyoum, Eritrea

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Eileen Cronin, USA

Carolina Fernández Opazo, Mexico

Term ends 31 Dec 2027

Mohanad Ali Omran Al-Musawi, Iraq

Pavel Chernikov, Russian Federation

Gaeimelwe Goitsemang, Botswana

Toshiya Hoshino, Japan

Conrod Cecil Hunte, Antigua and Barbuda

UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

Vienna International Centre
PO Box 500
A–1400 Vienna
Austria

Telephone: +43 1 26060 4060
Fax: +43 1 26060 7 4060
Email: uncitral@un.org

Website: https://uncitral.un.org
Secretary: Anna Joubin-Bret, France (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in 2017)

Purpose

The General Assembly established UNCITRAL to promote the harmonization and unification of the law of international trade (GA res. 2205 (XXI) (1966)). The Commission has since become the core legal body in the UN system in the field of international trade law. It pursues its mandate through preparation of texts dealing with the substantive law that governs trade transactions or other aspects of business law that have an impact on international trade.

The Commission also undertakes technical assistance activities to promote the use and adoption of the texts it has developed, and it ensures coordination of the work of organizations active in the international trade law field to encourage cooperation, avoid duplication of effort and promote efficiency, consistency and coherence.

Structure

UNCITRAL's work is organized and conducted at three levels. The first level is the Commission itself. The second is intergovernmental working groups, which to a large extent undertake the development of the topics on UNCITRAL's work programme. The third is the UNCITRAL secretariat, which assists the Commission and its working groups in the preparation and conduct of their work.

Meetings

UNCITRAL holds an annual plenary session, usually in June/July, alternating between New York and Vienna. The Working Groups usually hold one or two sessions a year, also alternating meetings between New York and Vienna. More information is available at https://uncitral.un.org/en/gateway/meetings.

Membership

Originally 29 states, membership increased to 36 in 1973, to 60 in 2003 (GA res. 57/20), and to 70 in 2021 (GA res. 76/109). GA res. 76/109 (2021) established that five of the 10 additional members would be elected during the General Assembly's 76th session and the remaining five during its 79th. Members take office at the beginning of the first day of the Commission's regular annual session immediately following their election (GA res. 31/99 (1976)). Terms, renewable, are usually six years, with the terms of half the members expiring every three years. The geographical distribution of seats is noted in the list below.

Members (70) as at 7 July 2025 and year term ends

African states (16 seats)

Burundi	2031	Mauritius	2028
Congo	2031	Morocco	2028
Côte d'Ivoire	2031	Nigeria	2028
DR Congo	2028	Sierra Leone	2031
Ghana	2031	Somalia	2028
Kenya	2028	South Africa	2031
Malawi	2028	Uganda	2028
Mauritania	2031	Zambia	2031

Asia–Pacific states (16 seats)

Afghanistan	2028	Philippines	2031
China	2031	ROK	2031
India	2028	Saudi Arabia	2028
Iran	2028	Singapore	2031
Iraq	2028	Sri Lanka	2031
Japan	2031	Thailand	2028
Kuwait	2028	Turkmenistan	2028
Malaysia	2031	Viet Nam	2031

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Eastern European states (10 seats)

Armenia	2028	Poland	2028
Belarus	2028	Russian Federation	2031
Bulgaria	2028	Ukraine	2031
Czechia	2028	Vacant	2031
Hungary	2031	Vacant	2031

Latin American and Caribbean states (12 seats)

Argentina	2028	El Salvador	2031
Bolivia	2031	Mexico	2031
Brazil	2028	Panama	2028
Chile	2028	Peru	2031
Colombia	2028	Uruguay	2031
Dominican Republic	2031	Venezuela	2028

Western European and Other states (16 seats)

Australia	2028	Italy	2028
Austria	2028	Netherlands	2031
Belgium	2031	Spain	2028
Canada	2031	Sweden	2031
France	2031	Switzerland	2031
Germany	2031	Türkiye	2028
Greece	2028	UK	2031
Israel	2028	USA	2028

UN Internal Justice System

Website: www.un.org/en/internaljustice/

Purpose

Work-related disputes at the UN cannot be resolved through national courts due to the organization's unique international legal status giving it immunity from domestic jurisdiction. For this reason, an internal system of justice is provided for all UN system staff. A two-tier formal internal justice system comprising a first instance UN Dispute Tribunal (UNDT), with seats in New York, Geneva and Nairobi, and an appellate instance, the UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT), seated in New York, adjudicates applications by current or former UN staff members regarding alleged non-compliance with their employment contracts or conditions.

The system is coordinated by an independent Office of Administration of Justice (OAJ), headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Secretary-General. The Registries supporting UNAT and UNDT, each headed by a Registrar and with an overall Principal Registrar, are part of the OAJ. The OAJ also includes the Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA), which advises staff members (and former staff and their dependants) who wish to appeal an adverse administrative decision and may also represent staff before the Tribunals, in management evaluation matters, and in disciplinary proceedings or mediation.

Evolution

The Assembly's intention to establish a "new, independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice" was stipulated in GA res. 61/261 (2007) and reaffirmed in GA res. 62/228 (2008).

The Statutes for the UNAT and UNDT were adopted by the General Assembly in res. 63/253 (2008), and the two Tribunals became operational on 1 July 2009. The former UN Administrative Tribunal was abolished as of 31 December 2009.

The Statutes for the UNAT and UNDT were amended by the General Assembly in resolutions 66/237 (2011), 69/203 (2014), 70/112 (2015), 71/266 (2016), 73/276 (2018) and 78/248 (2023). In resolution 78/248, the Assembly amended Article 9 of the UNDT Statute by adding paragraph 4 in respect of the UNDT's jurisdiction over administrative decisions imposing disciplinary measures.

Office of Administration of Justice (OAJ)

2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–2427
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 2525
Email: oaj@un.org

Executive Director: Alayne Frankson-Wallace

The OAJ is an independent office responsible for the overall coordination of the formal system of administration of justice, and for contributing to its functioning in a fair, transparent and efficient manner. The OAJ provides substantive, technical and administrative support to the judges of the UN Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT) through the registries, as well as to the Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA). The Tribunals have professional independent judges adjudicating cases. The OSLA has professional lawyers who provide independent and confidential legal assistance to staff members, in accordance with standards established for legal practitioners.

With its headquarters in New York, the OAJ also has a presence – through the UNDT registries in Geneva and Nairobi and the branch offices of the OSLA – in Addis Ababa, Beirut, Entebbe, Geneva and Nairobi.

Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA)

2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2-0650
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

New York telephone: +1 212 963 3957
Nairobi telephone: + 254 20 762 6734

Chief: Marcos Zunino

OSLA was established within the Office of Administration of Justice as of 1 July 2009, pursuant to GA res. 63/253 of 24 December 2008. OSLA is independent from the UN staff unions, management or other actors. OSLA counsel have a responsibility to act in the interest of the client staff member, former staff member or affected dependant of a staff member. As officers of the court before the UN Dispute and Appeals Tribunals, OSLA counsel are required to perform their duties in accordance with established professional, ethical and legal obligations. Their actions are governed by a code of conduct which includes a provision that: "counsel shall neither seek nor accept directions from any quarter whatever in the discharge of his or her duties to a client, save those arising from the counsel/client relationship".

OSLA is based at UN Headquarters in New York, with legal officers in Addis Ababa, Beirut, Entebbe, Geneva and Nairobi. OSLA may work in cooperation with UN staff members or former staff members who have legal experience, as well as pro bono external counsel.

UN Appeals Tribunal (UNAT) and UN Dispute Tribunal (UNDT)

UN Appeals Tribunal Registry
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–2409
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 9511
Email: unat1@un.org
Registrar: Juliet Johnson

UNDT Registry New York
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–2440
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 3901
Email: undt-newyork@un.org
Registrar: Isaac Endeley

UNDT Registry Geneva
Palais des Nations, Office S.102
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 2256
Email: undt.geneva@un.org
Registrar: Liliana Lopez-Bello

UNDT Registry Nairobi
UN Avenue, Gigiri, Room CW–302
PO Box 67578 (00200)
Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 20 762 1073
Email: undtnairobi@un.org
Registrar: Wanda Carter

Principal Registrar: Christian Rohde

Judges

Judges are non-staff officials of the UN. They are appointed to both tribunals by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Internal Justice Council.

UNAT Judges (as at 1 July 2025)

Nassib Ziadé, Lebanon/Chile (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030) (President 2025)

Katharine Mary Savage, South Africa (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030) (First Vice-President 2025)

Leslie Formine Forbang, Cameroon (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030) (Second Vice-President 2025)

Graeme Colgan, New Zealand (seven-year term 1 July 2019–30 June 2026)

Kanwaldeep Sandhu, Canada (seven-year term 1 July 2019–30 June 2026)

Gao Xiaoli, China (completing a former judge's seven-year term ending 30 June 2026)[1]

Abdelmohsen Ahmed Sheha, Egypt (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030)

UNDT full-time Judges (as at 1 July 2025)

Geneva: Sun Xiangzhuang, China (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030)

Nairobi: Sean Daniel Wallace, USA (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030) (President 2025)

New York: Appointment pending[2]

UNDT half-time Judges (as at 1 July 2025)

Eleanor Donaldson-Honeywell, Trinidad and Tobago (seven-year term 10 July 2019–9 July 2026)

Francesco Buffa, Italy (seven-year term 1 July 2019–30 June 2026)

Francis H V Belle, Barbados (seven-year term 10 July 2019–9 July 2026)

Margaret Tibulya, Uganda (seven-year term 10 July 2019–9 July 2026)

Rachel Sophie Sikwese, Malawi (seven-year term 10 July 2019–9 July 2026)

Solomon Areda Waktolla, Ethiopia (seven-year term 1 July 2023–30 June 2030)

Notes

1 Elected on 15 November 2022 to fill a vacancy after Jean-François Neven, Belgium, resigned effective 10 January 2022.

2 Joëlle Adda, France, resigned effective 31 December 2024.

UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF)

PO Box 5036
New York, NY 10163-5036
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 6931
Fax: +1 212 963 3146

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 022 928 8800
Fax: +41 022 928 9099

Email: Please use the contact form on www.unjspf.org
Website: www.unjspf.org

Purpose

The Pension Fund was established under regulations adopted by the General Assembly in GA res. 248 (III) (1948) to provide retirement, death, disability and related benefits for staff of the UN and the other organizations admitted to membership in the Fund. The regulations, which have been amended at various times, provide for the admission of other organizations to the Fund.

The Fund is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board, the Chief Executive of Pension Administration, a staff pension committee for each member organization and a secretariat to each such committee. The Board reports to the General Assembly every two years on the operations of the Fund and, when necessary, recommends amendments to the regulations governing its activities. The UN Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the investments of the Fund.

Expenses incurred by the Board in the administration of the Fund, principally the cost of its central Secretariat at UN Headquarters in New York and the management expenses of its investments, are met by the Fund.

Membership

Twenty-five organizations, including the UN, are members of the Fund (listed on the website). The Board has 33 members, of which 12 are from the UN Staff Pension Committee (four chosen by the General Assembly, four by the Secretary-General and four by participants in service) and 21 are from the other member organizations. All members are appointed from their respective organization's Staff Pension Committee, which can also appoint alternate members.

UN Committee members and alternates

Members appointed by the General Assembly (four-year terms ending 31 Dec 2028)

Dmitry S Chumakov, Russian Federation
Philip Richard Okanda Owade, Kenya
Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh
David Traystman, USA
Hitoshi Kozaki, Japan (alternate member)
Lovemore Mazemo, Zimbabwe (alternate member)
Guillermo Rodolico, Argentina (alternate member)
Jörg Stosberg, Germany (alternate member)

Members appointed by the Secretary-General (no terms)

Kathryn Alford
Martha Helena Lopez
Catherine Pollard
Arnab Roy
Maria Costa (alternate member)
Chandramouli Ramanathan (alternate member)

Representatives of UN participants (four-year terms ending 30 June 2029 or until election of successors)

Mary Abu-Rakabeh, UNICEF
Ane Hess-Nielsen, UNHCR
Patricia Nemeth, UNFCCC
Ian Richards, UN
Gabriele Borla, UNON (alternate member)
Francisco Brito, UN (alternate member)

UN Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (UNRoD)

Vienna International Centre
Wagramer Strasse 5
PO Box 500
A–1400 Vienna
Austria

Website: www.unrod.org
Executive Director: Leonid Frolov, Russian Federation (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in April 2021)

Purpose

GA res. ES-10/17 (2007) established UNRoD to serve as a record, in documentary form, of the damage caused to all natural and legal persons concerned as a result of the construction of the Wall by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. UNRoD is not a compensation commission, claims-resolution facility, judicial or quasi-judicial body.

To fulfil its mandate, UNRoD undertakes outreach activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to inform potential claimants of the existence and purpose of UNRoD and the procedure for filing a claim for registration of damage. UNRoD also assists claimants in completing the official UNRoD claim forms and collects completed claims forms for processing in Vienna. UNRoD's three-member Board has the ultimate authority to decide, based on criteria established by it, whether or not a loss or damage claimed is to be included in the UN Register of Damage.

As at 9 July 2025, a total of 74,262 claim forms had been collected in 269 affected communities where the construction of the Wall was either completed or ongoing. Claim intake activities had been conducted in all nine of the affected governorates – Tubas, Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Salfit, Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. As at 16 May 2025, the Board of UNRoD had reviewed and decided on 47,855 of the collected claims.

UNRoD is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and operates under the administrative authority of the Secretary-General.

Membership

Board members are appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The Executive Director is an ex officio member.

Members

Vladimir Goryayev, Russian Federation

Mariana Salazar Albornoz, Mexico

Jeremy K Sharpe, USA

Ex officio: Executive Director Leonid Frolov, Russian Federation (since July 2021)

SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil

CHARTER PROVISIONS

Under Article 24 of the UN Charter, the members of the UN conferred on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The functions of the Council fall mainly under two headings:
- Pacific settlement of disputes
- Action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.

Decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of any nine members. Decisions on other matters are made by an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of the five permanent members of the Council. Parties to a dispute must abstain from voting on measures for the pacific settlement of that dispute.

The Charter provisions relating to the Security Council are contained in Chapter V (Articles 23–32), Chapter VI (Articles 33–38), Chapter VII (Articles 39–51), Chapter VIII (Articles 52–54) and Articles 76 and 82–84 of Chapter XII. Other provisions are found in Articles 1, 2, 4–7, 10–12, 15, 18, 20, 65, 93, 94, 96–99, 106, 108 and 109 of the Charter and Articles 4, 7–15, 35, 41 and 69 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

MEMBERSHIP

The Security Council consists of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members. Five of the non-permanent members are elected each year by the General Assembly for a term of two years. Terms for each non-permanent member end on 31 December of the year indicated in the membership list. Countries that have not served on the Security Council are not listed.

In electing the Security Council's non-permanent members, the General Assembly is required by the Charter to pay due regard, in the first instance, to the contribution of UN members to the maintenance of international peace and security, the other purposes of the organization and also to equitable geographical distribution. A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election.

The Presidency is held in turn by Security Council members in the English alphabetical order of their country names, each holding office for one month.

By GA res. 1991A (XVIII) (1963), the General Assembly adopted and submitted for ratification by UN Member States amendments to the Charter provisions relating to membership of the Security Council (Articles 23 and 27). It was decided to increase the number of non-permanent members from six to 10, and that the 10 non-permanent members should be elected according to the following pattern: five from African and Asia–Pacific states, one from Eastern European states, two from Latin American and Caribbean states, and two from Western European and Other states. These amendments took effect in 1965, having been ratified by more than two-thirds of UN Member States, including all the permanent members of the Security Council. The first expanded Council was elected in 1965.

Security Council permanent members

China	Russian Federation	USA
France	UK	

Security Council non-permanent members* (10)

	Previous	Current
African and Asia–Pacific states (5 non-permanent seats)		
Algeria	1968–69 88–89 2004–05	2024–25
Angola	2003–04 15–16	
Bahrain	1998–99	
Bangladesh	1979–80 2000–01	
Benin	1976–77 2004–05	
Botswana	1995–96	
Burkina Faso	1984–85 2008–09	
Burundi	1970–71	
Cameroon	1974–75 2002–03	
Cabo Verde	1992–93	
Chad	2014–15	
Congo	1986–87 2006–07	
Côte d'Ivoire	1964–65 90–91 2018–19	
DR Congo	1982–83 90–91	
Djibouti	1993–94	
Egypt	1946 49–50 61–62[1] 84–85 96–97 2016–17	
Equatorial Guinea	2018–19	
Ethiopia	1967–68 89–90 2017–18	
Gabon	1978–79 98–99 2010–11 22–23	
Gambia	1998–99	
Ghana	1962–63 86–87 2006–07 22–23	
Guinea	1972–73 2002–03	
Guinea-Bissau	1996–97	
India	1950–51 67–68 72–73 77–78 84–85 91–92 2011–12 21–22	
Indonesia	1973–74 95–96 2007–08 19–20	
Iran	1955–56	
Iraq	1957–58 74–75	
Japan	1958–59 66–67 71–72 75–76 81–82 87–88 92–93 97–98 2005–06 09–10 16–17 23–24	
Jordan	1965–66 82–83 2014–15	
Kazakhstan	2017–18	
Kenya	1973–74 97–98 2021–22	
Kuwait	1978–79 2018–19	
Lebanon	1953–54 2010–11	
Liberia	1961[2]	
Libya	1976–77 2008–09	
Madagascar	1985–86	
Malaysia	1965[3] 89–90 1999–2000 15–16	
Mali	1966–67 2000–01	
Mauritania	1974–75	
Mauritius	1977–78 2001–02	
Morocco	1963–64 92–93 2012–13	
Mozambique	2023–24	
Namibia	1999–2000	
Nepal	1969–70 88–89	
Niger	1980–81 20–21	

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Nigeria	1966–67 78–79 94–95 2010–11 14–15
Oman	1994–95
Pakistan	1952–53 68–69 76–77 83–84 93–94 2003–04 12–13 2025–26
Philippines	1957[4] 63[5] 80–81 2004–05
Qatar	2006–07
ROK	1996–97 2013–14 2024–25
Rwanda	1994–95 2013–14
Senegal	1968–69 88–89 2016–17
Sierra Leone	1970–71 2024–25
Singapore	2001–02
Somalia	1971–72 2025–26
South Africa	2007–08 11–12 19–20
Sri Lanka	1960–61
Sudan	1972–73
Syrian AR[1]	1947–48 70–71 2002–03
Thailand	1985–86
Togo	1982–83 2012–13
Tunisia	1959–60 80–81 2000–01 20–21
Uganda	1966[6] 81–82 2009–10
UAE	1986–87 22–23
UR of Tanzania	1975–76 2005–06
Viet Nam	2008–09 20–21
Yemen	1990–91
Zambia	1969–70 79–80 87–88
Zimbabwe	1983–84 91–92

Eastern European states (1 non-permanent seat)[7]

Albania	2022–23
Azerbaijan	2012–13
Belarus	1974–75
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2010–11
Bulgaria	1966–67 86–87 2002–03
Czechia	1994–95
Croatia	2008–09
Estonia	2020–21
Hungary	1968–69 92–93
Lithuania	2014–15
Poland	1946–47 60[8] 70–71 82–83 96–97 2018–19
Romania	1962[5] 76–77 90–91 2004–05
Slovakia	2006–07
Slovenia	1998–99 2024–25
Ukraine	1948–49 84–85 2000–01 16–17

Latin American and Caribbean states (2 non-permanent seats)

Argentina	1948–49 59–60 66–67 71–72 87–88 94–95 1999–2000 05–06 13–14
Bolivia	1964–65 78–79 2017–18
Brazil	1946–47 51–52 54–55 63–64 67–68 88–89 93–94 98–99 2004–05 10–11 22–23
Chile	1952–53 61–62 96–97 2003–04 14–15
Colombia	1947–48 53–54 57–58 69–70 89–90 2001–02 11–12
Costa Rica	1974–75 97–98 2008–09
Cuba	1949–50 56–57 90–91
Dominican Republic	2019–20
Ecuador	1950–51 60–61 91–92 2023–24

Guatemala	2012–13
Guyana	1975–76 82–83 2024–25
Honduras	1995–96
Jamaica	1979–80 2000–01
Mexico	1946 80–81 2002–03 09–10 21–22
Nicaragua	1970–71 83–84
Panama	1958–59 72–73 76–77 81–82 2007–08 2025–26
Paraguay	1968–69
Peru	1955–56 73–74 84–85 2006–07 18–19
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2020–21
Trinidad and Tobago	1985–86
Uruguay	1965–66 2016–17
Venezuela	1962–63 77–78 86–87 92–93 2015–16

Western European and Other states (2 non-permanent seats)

Australia	1946–47 56–57 73–74 85–86 2013–14
Austria	1973–74 91–92 2009–10
Belgium	1947–48 55–56 71–72 91–92 2007–08 19–20
Canada	1948–49 58–59 67–68 77–78 89–90 1999–2000
Denmark	1953–54 67–68 85–86 2005–06 2025–26
Finland	1969–70 89–90
Germany[9]	1977–78 87–88 95–96 2003–04 11–12 19–20
Greece	1952–53 2005–06 2025–26
Ireland	1962[2] 81–82 2001–02 21–22
Italy	1959–60 71–72 75–76 87–88 95–96 2007–08 17[10]
Luxembourg	2013–14
Malta	1983–84 2023–24
Netherlands	1946 51–52 65–66 83–84 1999–2000 18[10]
New Zealand	1954–55 66[6] 93–94 2015–16
Norway	1949–50 63–64 79–80 2001–02 21–22
Portugal	1979–80 97–98 2011–12
Spain	1969–70 81–82 93–94 2003–04 15–16
Sweden	1957–58 75–76 97–98 2017–18
Switzerland	2023–24
Türkiye	1951–52 54–55 61[8] 2009–10

Notes

* On 3 June 2025, the General Assembly elected Bahrain, Colombia, DR Congo, Latvia and Liberia to serve a two-year term from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

1 The United Arab Republic served on the Council in 1961. Egypt and Syria were original Members of the UN from 24 October 1945. Following a plebiscite on 21 February 1958, the United Arab Republic was established by a union of Egypt and Syria and continued as a single Member. On 13 October 1961, the Syrian Arab Republic, having resumed its status as an independent state, resumed its separate membership in the United Nations. On 2 September 1971, the United Arab Republic changed its name to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

2 The 1961–62 term was split between Liberia and Ireland.

3 The 1964–65 term was split between Czechoslovakia and Malaysia.

4 The 1956–57 term was split between Yugoslavia and Philippines.

5 The 1962–63 term was split between Romania and Philippines.

6 One-year term pursuant to elections held in accordance with Article 23(2) of the Charter.

7 Czechoslovakia served on the Council in 1964 (split term shared with Malaysia) and 1978–79. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Council in 1950–51, 1956 (split term with Philippines), 1972–73 and 1988–89. It was not succeeded by any of the new states following its dissolution.

8 The 1960–61 term was split between Poland and Türkiye.

9 The German Democratic Republic served a term on the Council in 1980–81.

10 The 2017–18 term was split between Italy and the Netherlands.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES

STANDING COMMITTEES

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/repertoire/standing-and-ad-hoc-committees

The Security Council has four standing committees:

- Committee of Experts on Rules of Procedure
- Committee on Council Meetings away from Headquarters
- Committee on Admission of New Members
- Committee of Experts established by the Security Council at its 1506th meeting in connection with the question of the "Creation of a category of associate membership".

Each of these committees comprises representatives of all Security Council members. The Chair is the Council President, rotating monthly.

WORKING GROUPS

Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/subsidiary/wgcaac

The Working Group, established in July 2005 by SC res. 1612 (2005), is mandated to:

- Review reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism referred to in para. 3 of res. 1612, on violations against children affected by armed conflict committed by parties that are listed in the annexes to the Secretary-General's report on children and armed conflict
- Review progress in the development and implementation of the action plans mentioned in para. 5(a) of res. 1539 (2004), para. 7 of res. 1612 (2005), para. 5 of res. 1882 (2009) and para. 6 of res. 1998 (2011) and consider other relevant information presented to it
- Make recommendations to the Security Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to parties to the conflict
- Address requests to other bodies within the UN system for action to support implementation of res. 1612 (2005) in accordance with their respective mandates.

Security Council resolutions 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011), paras. 7 and 9 respectively, requested enhanced communication between the Working Group and relevant Security Council sanctions committees, including through the exchange of pertinent information on violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict. SC res. 2427 (2018) provided a comprehensive framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being and the empowerment of children through the conflict cycle and emphasized how the children and armed conflict agenda is integral to conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

The Working Group consists of representatives of all 15 Security Council members. The Chair for 2025 is Evangelos Sekeris, Greece. The Vice-Chair is Panama.

AD HOC WORKING GROUPS

Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/subsidiary/wgdocs

Established in June 1993, the Informal Working Group is concerned with improving the process by which the Security Council addresses issues concerning its documentation

and other procedural questions. Further to the discussions in the Informal Working Group, the Security Council has issued a series of Notes by the President concerning its working methods, including measures to enhance its efficiency, transparency and interactivity. The most comprehensive compilation of these measures is the Note by the President of 13 December 2024 (S/2024/507), which incorporates and further develops the Note by the President of 30 August 2017 (S/2017/507) and the subsequent Notes by the President.

The Working Group consists of representatives of all Security Council members. The Co-Chairs for 2025 are Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan, and Christina Markus Lassen, Denmark.

Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/subsidiary/wgpko

Established on 31 January 2001 (S/PRST/2001/3), the Working Group addresses both generic peacekeeping issues relevant to the responsibility of the Security Council and technical aspects of individual peacekeeping operations. This is done without prejudice to the competence of the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. The Working Group's joint meetings with relevant troop-contributing countries, as agreed by the Council on 22 January 2002, complement the format of public and private meetings provided for by SC res. 1353 (2001).

The Working Group consists of representatives of the Security Council members and normally troop- and police-contributing countries. The Chair for 2025 is Joonkook Hwang, ROK. The Vice-Chairs are China and the UK.

Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/subsidiary/africa-ad-hoc-wg

The Working Group was established on 1 March 2002 (S/2002/207) to monitor the implementation of recommendations contained in Presidential Statement 2002/2 and previous presidential statements and resolutions regarding conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. The Group is mandated to examine regional and cross-conflict issues that affect the Security Council's work on African conflict prevention and resolution, and to propose recommendations to the Security Council to enhance cooperation on conflict prevention and resolution among the UN, regional (African Union) and sub-regional organizations. The Group has also been asked to follow up on the communiqués of the annual joint consultative meetings between the members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

The Working Group consists of representatives of the Security Council members. The Chair for 2025 is Abukar Dahir Osman, Somalia. The Vice-Chair is Sierra Leone.

Working Group Established Pursuant to SC Res. 1566 (2004)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/subsidiary/1566

By res. 1566 (2004), the Security Council established the Working Group to examine:

- Practical measures to be imposed on individuals, groups or entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities, other than those designated by the Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee (now two committees)
- The possibility of establishing an international fund to compensate victims of terrorist acts and their families.

The Working Group consists of representatives of the Security Council members. The Chair for 2025 is Amar Bendjama, Algeria. The Vice-Chairs are France and the Russian Federation.

Informal Working Group on International Tribunals

The Informal Working Group was established in June 2000 to deal with a specific issue pertaining to the Statute of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia or ICTY).

It was subsequently mandated to deal with other legal issues pertaining to the ICTY as well as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994 (International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda or ICTR). It also deals with the UN International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT), which was established by the Security Council on 22 December 2010 to perform a number of essential functions previously carried out by the ICTR and the ICTY.

The Chair for 2025 is Michael Imran Kanu, Sierra Leone. The Vice-Chair is Denmark.

MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/subsidiary/msc

The Committee was established by SC res. 1 (1946) under Article 47 of the UN Charter and consists of the Chiefs of Staff of the Permanent Members of the Security Council or their representatives. Its function is to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, as laid down in Articles 26, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 47 of the Charter. The Committee is so organized as to be able to function continuously. Its headquarters are located at the seat of the Security Council.

GA res. 1235 (XII) (1957) authorized the integration of the Committee civilian staff with the UN Secretariat. By way of GA res. 60/1 (2005), paragraph 178 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the General Assembly requested the Security Council to consider the composition, mandate and working methods of the Committee. On 12 April 2012, the Committee endorsed a handbook of 'Working Methods of the Military Staff Committee', which was updated in July 2015 and revised in 2018 and 2021.

The Committee meets at any time the Chair deems necessary, but at intervals not exceeding 14 days. Since 2010, the Committee has routinely invited military representatives of the elected members of the Security Council to participate in its informal sessions, and since January 2017, to its formal meetings. The Committee also regularly invites representatives from various departments and offices of the UN Secretariat, UN Force Commanders and regional organizations to its meetings to hold briefings and discuss current issues. The Committee is also deployed in peacekeeping missions twice a year to provide the Security Council with a military assessment of their performance. In October 2023, the Committee established a partnership with the African Union Peace and Security Council Military Staff Committee, which includes regular meetings and joint activities.

COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE (CTC)

Website: www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/

The CTC was established by SC res. 1373 (2001), which was adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the USA. The Committee was tasked with monitoring implementation of the resolution, which requested countries to

implement measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities at home, in their regions and around the world, including taking steps to:

- Criminalize the financing of terrorism
- Freeze without delay any funds related to persons involved in acts of terrorism
- Deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups
- Suppress the provision of safe haven, sustenance or support for terrorists
- Share information with other governments on any groups practising or planning terrorist acts
- Cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition and prosecution of those involved in such acts
- Criminalize active and passive assistance for terrorism in domestic law and bring violators to justice
- Implement effective border-control measures.

The resolution also calls on states to become parties, as soon as possible, to the relevant international counter-terrorism legal instruments.

In 2005, the Security Council directed the CTC to include resolution 1624 (2005), on the incitement to commit acts of terrorism, in its ongoing dialogue with countries on their efforts to counter terrorism.

SC res. 2178 (2014) requires Member States to take certain steps to address the threat of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), including preventing suspected FTFs from entering or transiting their territories and to implement legislation to prosecute FTFs. It also calls on states to take various steps to improve international cooperation in this field, including sharing information on criminal investigations, interdictions and prosecutions. The resolution is the first in which the Council stresses that countering violent extremism (CVE) is an essential element of an effective response to the FTF phenomenon. Pursuant to the resolution, the CTC has strengthened its focus on FTFs, providing a framework for long-term monitoring and assistance to states in their efforts to address the threat. In addition, SC res. 2482 (2019) calls upon Member States to enhance coordination of efforts at all levels in order to strengthen a global response to linkages between international terrorism and organized crime, whether domestic or transnational.

Under resolution 1535 (2004), the Security Council established the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) as a special political mission to assist the CTC. CTED's mandate was most recently extended by SC res. 2617 (2021) until 31 December 2025. CTED's tasks include monitoring, facilitating and promoting the implementation of SC resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014) and other relevant counter-terrorism resolutions. It also works within the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to strengthen a common action approach to coordination and coherence in the UN system's work on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, as well as to strengthen support to Member States in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The CTED Executive Director is Natalia Gherman, Republic of Moldova (since December 2022).

Membership

The Committee comprises representatives of the 15 Security Council members.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Amar Bendjama, Algeria

Vice-Chairs
France
Pakistan
Russian Federation

SC RES. 1540 COMMITTEE – NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BY NON-STATE ACTORS

Website: www.un.org/en/sc/1540

Purpose

The Committee was established by SC res. 1540 (2004) para. 4 to report to the Security Council on implementation of the same resolution, which is aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery to non-state actors. The resolution, adopted unanimously by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, obliges states, amongst other things, to refrain from supporting by any means non-state actors from developing, acquiring, manufacturing, possessing, transporting, transferring or using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The resolution also imposes binding obligations on all states to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and to establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking.

The Security Council called on Member States to report to the Committee on steps they have taken, or intend to take, to implement the resolution. The Committee is assisted by experts appointed by the Secretary-General with the consent of the Committee.

Evolution

By SC res. 1673 (2006), the Security Council reiterated its call to Member States to present reports on their implementation of SC res. 1540 and encouraged them to provide additional information. The Council decided the Committee should intensify its efforts to promote the full implementation of the resolution.

By SC res. 1810 (2008), the Council extended the Committee's mandate until 25 April 2011. It also requested the Committee to consider a comprehensive review of the status of the implementation of SC res. 1540. The key findings and recommendations were issued on 1 February 2010 (S/2010/52).

In 2009, the Committee established four working groups on a trial basis to focus on important and recurring issues:

- Monitoring and national implementation
- Assistance
- Cooperation with international organizations, including the Security Council committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001)
- Transparency and media outreach.

By SC res. 1977 (2011), the Council extended the Committee's mandate until 25 April 2021 and decided the Committee would: conduct a comprehensive review on implementation of SC res. 1540, both after five years (before December 2016) and prior to the renewal of its mandate; include, if necessary, recommendations on adjustment to the mandate; and submit a report on the conclusion of these reviews to the Security Council.

On 15 December 2016, the Security Council adopted SC res. 2325 (2016), calling on all states to strengthen national non-proliferation regimes in implementation of SC res. 1540 (2004) and submit timely reports on their efforts.

The Committee's mandate has been further extended several times, most recently by SC res. 2663 (2022) until 30 November 2032. In this resolution, the Council decided that the Committee shall continue to conduct and complete comprehensive reviews on the status of implementation of SC res. 1540 (2004), with the first to be held before December 2027.

The 20th anniversary of the adoption of SC res. 1540 was marked on 28 April 2024.

Further by SC res. 1977 (2011), the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the 1540 Committee, a group of nine experts (SC res. 2055 (2012)) to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate under resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011).

Membership

The Committee comprises representatives of the 15 Security Council members.

Bureau for 2025

Chair
Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Panama

Vice-Chairs
Greece
UK

SANCTIONS COMMITTEES

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/information

Under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council can take enforcement measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such measures include comprehensive economic and trade sanctions and/or more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, financial or commodity restrictions.

As at July 2025, there were 14 Security Council sanctions committees, as well as nine monitoring groups, teams and panels that support the work of 10 of the 14 sanctions committees. The 14 Committees are detailed here. However, there are frequent changes to the various sanctions regimes and the most recent information, as well as more detail, should be sought from the Committee web pages and applicable Security Council resolutions.

Membership

Each Sanctions Committee comprises all 15 Security Council members and meets in closed session. The office holders (chairs and vice-chairs) are normally elected by the Security Council in early January for terms that run to 31 December of that year and may be renewed.

UN sanctions lists

The sanctions lists comprise individuals and entities subject to targeted measures and designated by sanctions committees. Committee-specific sanctions lists may be found on the respective web pages of the relevant sanctions committees.

In addition, the UN Security Council Consolidated List, comprising Committee-specific sanctions lists, was made available online on 29 October 2014. As at 1 July 2025, there were 683 individuals and 194 entities on the Consolidated List.

The inclusion of all names on the Consolidated List is to facilitate implementation of the measures. This implies neither that all names are listed under one regime, nor that the criteria for listing names are the same.

Focal point for de-listing

In 2006, the Security Council adopted res. 1730 to try to ensure fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them, as well as for granting humanitarian exemptions. The resolution requested the Secretary-General establish a focal point to receive de-listing requests and perform the tasks described in the annex to that resolution.

On 19 July 2024, the Security Council adopted res. 2744 (2024), introducing new procedures for the consideration of de-listing requests, with the exception of the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee list, which remains under the purview of the Office of the Ombudsperson. More information is available on the website.

Office of the Ombudsperson

In 2009, the Security Council established the Office of the Ombudsperson (SC res. 1904 (2009)). Its mandate (described in SC res. 2734 (2024)) is to review requests from individuals and entities seeking removal from the Security Council's ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List and to make recommendations to the SC res. 1267/1989/2253 Sanctions Committee (ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida) on these requests.

More information about the Office of the Ombudsperson is included on page 108, in the entry 'SC res. 1267/1989/2253 Sanctions Committee (ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida)'. Further information and contact details for the Office are available on the website.

Interagency Working Group on UN Sanctions

The Interagency Working Group on UN Sanctions is a standing working group in the UN Secretariat, which brings together 20 UN departments and offices, agencies, funds and programmes working on sanctions issues from peace and security, humanitarian, human rights, legal, protection and development perspectives. The Interagency Working Group was originally formed to consolidate UN system-wide inputs for submission to the High Level Review.

SC Res. 2713 Sanctions Committee (Al-Shabaab)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/2713

The Committee was initially established by SC res. 751 (1992) to oversee the arms embargo imposed on Somalia under SC res. 733 (1992). Thereafter, a series of resolutions modified the sanctions regime, including expanding the Committee's mandate, imposing targeted sanctions, a travel ban and an assets freeze, and providing some exemptions.

Following the adoption of SC res. 1907 (2009), which imposed a sanctions regime on Eritrea and expanded the Committee's mandate, the Committee changed its full name in February 2010 to 'Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea'. In SC res. 2093 (2013), the Security Council partially lifted the arms embargo for the development of the Federal Government of Somalia's security forces.

With the adoption of SC res. 2444 (2018), which terminated the Eritrea sanctions regime, the Committee's name was changed to 'Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia'. SC res. 2498 (2019) imposed an improvised explosive device (IED) components ban in relation to Somalia. With the adoption of SC res. 2662 (2022), the name of the Committee was further changed to 'Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Al-Shabaab'. SC res. 2696 (2023) authorized the Federal Government of Somalia to implement its proposal for the one-off, complete disposal of the charcoal stockpile.

On 1 December 2023, the Security Council adopted resolution 2713 (2023), by which it imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Al-Shabaab in Somalia, and changed the name of the Committee to 'Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023) concerning Al-Shabaab'. On the same date, the Council adopted resolution 2714 (2023), by which it lifted the arms embargo imposed in resolution 733 (1992). The sanctions regime was most recently renewed until 13 December 2025 by SC res. 2776 (2025).

The sanctions regime includes an arms embargo focused on Al-Shabaab, a travel ban, an assets freeze and a ban on charcoal import and export, whether or not such charcoal originated in Somalia, as well as an IED components ban. The sanctions regime also includes an authorization, which is renewed annually, for the maritime interdiction of charcoal, weapons or military equipment and IED components being shipped in violation of the relevant measures.

The first Panel of Experts on Somalia was established by SC res. 1425 (2002) to generate information on violations of the arms embargo on Somalia, with a view toward strengthening it. In SC res. 1519 (2003), the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a Monitoring Group on Somalia, composed of up to four experts, which replaced the former Panel of Experts. With the expansion of the Committee's mandate to include Eritrea (SC res. 1907 (2009)), the group's name became the Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG), and its mandate further expanded to include monitoring and reporting on implementation of the measures on Eritrea. Through SC res. 2444 (2018), the Council terminated the mandate of the SEMG from 16 December 2018 and established the Panel of Experts on Somalia to oversee the remaining sanctions on that country. The Panel, which is now known as the Panel of Experts pursuant to resolution 2713 (2023), is composed of six experts and its mandate was most recently renewed until 13 January 2026 by SC res. 2776 (2025).

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Eloy Alfaro de Alba, Panama

Vice-Chair
China

SC Res. 1267/1989/2253 Sanctions Committee (ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1267

The Committee was first established by SC res. 1267 on 15 October 1999 to oversee aviation and financial sanctions imposed on the Taliban regarding Taliban-controlled territory in Afghanistan. The aim was to secure the surrender of Osama bin Laden to the appropriate authorities for prosecution and to close down terrorist camps in Afghan territory.

The regime has since expanded considerably. Under SC resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), the Committee was split to form the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the 1988 Sanctions Committee (Taliban). This split was to reflect the disassociation of many of the Taliban from Al-Qaida and a focus on encouraging peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. Further expansion came with the adoption of SC res. 2253 (2015), when the mandate of the Committee was broadened to include the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in addition to Al-Qaida.

The Council has reaffirmed the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo in successive resolutions, most recently in SC res. 2734 (2024). More detailed information is available on the website under 'Resolutions'.

A list of the individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo sanctions is maintained by the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee on the basis of information provided by Member States and regional organizations. The key criterion for listing of individuals or entities is an association with ISIL (Da'esh) or Al-Qaida.

Since 2011, listed entities and individuals can submit a de-listing request to the Ombudsperson to the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, appointed by the UN Secretary-General. See 'Office of the Ombudsperson' (below) for more information.

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1267/monitoring-team/work-and-mandate

'The Monitoring Team' was established under SC res. 1526 (2004) to operate under the direction of the Committee established pursuant to SC res. 1267 (1999), providing analytical support and monitoring implementation of the sanctions measures. In 2011, its mandate subsequently included support to the 1988 Sanctions Committee (see the following entry on the SC Res. 1988 Sanctions Committee (Taliban)).

The Monitoring Team and its mandate have expanded since the Team's inception. Resolution 2253 (2015) authorized the appointment of up to 10 New York-based experts to serve on the Team, supported by a team of UN staff. The mandate of the Monitoring Team is described in paragraphs 51–52 and Annex I of SC res. 2255 (2015), paragraphs 94–100 and Annex I of SC res. 2368 (2017), paragraphs 98–105 and Annex I of SC res. 2610 (2021) and paragraphs 101–108 and Annex I of SC res. 2734 (2024). The Monitoring Team has also been tasked to work on the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) and the Al-Nusrah Front.

Experts in the Monitoring Team are appointed by the Secretary-General, in close consultation with both the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the SC Res. 1988 Sanctions Committee (Taliban). The mandate of the Monitoring Team expires on 17 June 2027 (SC res. 2734 (2024)).

Office of the Ombudsperson

The Office of the Ombudsperson was established under SC res. 1904 (2009) to review requests for removal from the 'ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List' (de-listing). The Office is unique to this Committee, and the Ombudsperson is independent and impartial. The Ombudsperson receives de-listing requests from individuals, groups, undertakings or entities seeking to be removed from the List. The Ombudsperson can either recommend the listing is retained or recommend that the Committee consider de-listing. Where the Ombudsperson recommends a de-listing, under SC res. 2368 (2017), also reflected in SC res. 2734 (2024), the recommendation will be approved unless all 15 members of the Committee decide otherwise, or in the absence of consensus at the request of a Committee member, the Chair refers the matter to the Security Council and the Security Council decides not to follow the Ombudsperson's recommendation. To date, no recommendation of the Ombudsperson has been overturned under either of these scenarios.

The mandate of the Ombudsperson is set out in Annex II of SC res. 2368 (2017), Annex II of SC res. 2610 (2021) and Annex II of SC res. 2734 (2024), as is the process and allocated timeframe for action once a de-listing request is received. The Ombudsperson is appointed by the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the Committee. The current Ombudsperson, Richard Malanjum, has been serving in the role since 14 February 2022. The current mandate of the Ombudsperson expires on 17 June 2027 (SC res. 2734 (2024)). Further information and contact details for the Ombudsperson are available on the website.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Christina Markus Lassen, Denmark

Vice-Chairs
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone

SC Res. 1988 Sanctions Committee (Taliban)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1988

The Security Council established the Committee on 17 June 2011 when, by resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), it split the work of the SC Res. 1267 Sanctions Committee (Al-Qaida and the Taliban) into two committees (see SC Res. 1267/1989/2253 Sanctions Committee (ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida)).

SC res. 1988 (2011; most recently reaffirmed in SC res. 2716 (2023)) requires all states to implement an assets freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo against individuals, groups and entities listed. The general criterion for designation on the Sanctions List is membership or association with the Taliban in constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan.

The Committee oversees the implementation of these three sanctions measures and, amongst other things, establishes and maintains the Sanctions List of individuals and entities to whom these measures apply (SC res. 1988, para. 30).

The Sanctions List is reviewed annually. The Committee considers the appropriateness of the continued listing of deceased, reconciled individuals or those lacking identifiers. Any Member State can request an individual or entity be listed or de-listed. Petitioners seeking de-listing without the sponsorship of a Member State are eligible to submit such requests to the Focal Point mechanism established under SC res. 1730 (2006). Exemption requests to the travel ban and assets freeze can also be submitted.

Under SC res. 2255 (2015), Member States can submit for the Committee's consideration the names of listed individuals for whom travel to specific locations is necessary to participate in meetings in support of peace and reconciliation. The Committee can grant exemptions from the travel ban to these individuals, each up to a duration of nine months, and renewable. For details of current exemptions, see the website.

In SC res. 2611 (2021), the Security Council renewed the sanctions measures and requested the Committee submit a further, annual comprehensive report on implementation by Member States of the sanctions measures, as outlined in the annex to SC res. 2611 (2021). The Committee submitted its report on 25 May 2022 (S/2022/419). SC res. 2615 (2021) provided for a humanitarian exemption to the sanctions regime, enabling the provision of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team

The Monitoring Team was established under SC res. 1526 (2004) to operate under the direction of the then SC Res. 1267 Sanctions Committee Al-Qaida and the Taliban, providing analytical support and monitoring implementation of the sanctions measures. In 2011, following the decision to split the Al-Qaida and Taliban regime in two, its mandate subsequently included support to the 1988 Sanctions Committee (see the previous entry on the SC Res. 1267/1989/2253 Sanctions Committee (ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida)).

Resolution 2253 (2015) authorizes the appointment of up to 10 New York-based experts to serve on the Team, supported by a team of UN staff. Its mandate with regard to the 1988 Sanctions Committee is set out fully in the annex of SC res. 2255 (2015). The mandate of the Monitoring Team expires on 17 February 2026 (SC res. 2763 (2024)). The Monitoring Team cooperates closely with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as with a range of other relevant stakeholders.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Pakistan

Vice-Chairs
Guyana
Russian Federation

SC Res. 1518 Sanctions Committee (Iraq)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1518

The Committee was established by SC res. 1518 on 24 November 2003 as the successor body to the Security Council Committee established by SC res. 661 (1990) concerning Iraq and Kuwait. The 1518 Committee's role is to continue to identify senior officials of the former Iraqi regime and their immediate family members, and including entities owned or controlled by them or by persons acting on their behalf, who are subject to the assets freeze and transfer measures imposed in 2003 by SC res. 1483.

By SC res. 1546 (2004), the Security Council exempted the Government of Iraq and multinational force from the embargo on arms and related materiel but noted that the exemption did not include chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, or missiles or materiels related to these.

As at July 2025, a partial arms embargo and an assets freeze were in effect.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Samuel Žbogar, Slovenia

Vice-Chair
Somalia

SC Res. 1533 Sanctions Committee (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1533

The Committee was established by SC res. 1533 on 12 March 2004 to oversee the sanctions originally imposed by SC res. 1493 (2003). It has subsequently been modified by further resolutions. The Security Council first imposed an arms embargo on all foreign and Congolese armed groups and militias operating in the territory of North and South Kivu and Ituri, and on groups not party to the Global and All-inclusive Agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as at 28 July 2003. Security Council resolutions that have modified the sanctions include 1698 (2006), 1771 (2007), 1799 (2008), 1952 (2010), 2078 (2012), 2136 (2014), 2198 (2015), 2293 (2016) and 2360 (2017).

The sanctions have been expanded to cover individuals and entities engaging in or providing support for attacks against the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) peacekeepers (SC res. 2078 (2012)), as well as UN personnel (SC res. 2198 (2015)), members of the Group of Experts that assists the Committee (SC res. 2360 (2017)) and medical or humanitarian personnel (SC res. 2582 (2021)). The regime was most recently extended until 1 July 2026 by SC res. 2783 of 30 June 2025. The resolution also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts until 1 August 2026.

The arms embargo applies to all non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Member States are under an obligation to notify the Committee in advance about any shipment of arms and related materiel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Government or the provision of assistance, advice or training related to military activities, as well as for the supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Michael Imran Kanu, Sierra Leone

Vice-Chair
Algeria

SC Res. 1591 Sanctions Committee (Sudan)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1591

The Security Council first imposed an arms embargo on all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed militias, operating in the states of North, South and West Darfur on 30 July 2004 (SC res. 1556 (2004)).

SC res. 1591 (2005) broadened the scope of the arms embargo to include all parties to the N'Djamena Ceasefire Agreement and any other belligerents in the aforementioned states. The same resolution imposed a travel ban and/or assets freeze on designated individuals and entities. It also established a committee to oversee the measures and a Panel of Experts, composed of five experts, to assist the Committee.

Subsequent resolutions have tightened, updated and reiterated the measures, most recently, SC res. 2340 (2017). SC res. 2750 of 11 September 2024 renewed the sanctions measures until 12 September 2025 and SC res. 2772 of 17 February 2025 extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 12 March 2026.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Joonkook Hwang, ROK

Vice-Chair
Somalia

SC Res. 1636 Sanctions Committee (Lebanon)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1636

The Committee was established by SC res. 1636 of 31 October 2005 to register individuals suspected of involvement in the 14 February 2005 terrorist bombing in Beirut, Lebanon – which killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 21 others – as subject to a travel ban and assets freeze. In the year to 30 June 2025, the Committee did not hold any consultations or meetings.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Samuel Žbogar, Slovenia

Vice-Chair
Denmark

SC Res. 1718 Sanctions Committee (Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK))

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1718

The Security Council decided by resolution 1718 (2006) that the DPRK should suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme, abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes, and abandon all other existing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The SC res. 1718 Sanctions Committee was established by the same resolution, on 14 October 2006, to oversee a regime that includes an arms embargo, a ban on trade and transfer of luxury goods, an assets freeze and a travel ban for designated individuals or entities.

By SC res. 1874 (2009), the Security Council expanded the scope of its arms embargo, authorizing Member States to inspect vessels that might carry prohibited cargo as well as to seize and dispose of prohibited items. It also prohibited financial services or transfer of funds that might contribute to the DPRK's nuclear, ballistic missile or other WMD-related activities.

By the same resolution, the Security Council created a Panel of Experts, comprising seven experts and later expanded to eight (SC res. 2094 (2013)), to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate.[1]

By resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013), the Security Council further strengthened and expanded the scope of the sanctions against the DPRK, especially by designating additional individuals and entities, imposing new financial sanctions and reinforcing states' authority to inspect suspicious cargo.

Between 2016 and 2017, the Security Council adopted a series of resolutions in an effort to curtail the DPRK's expanding capability to pursue prohibited programmes and activities and give support to the diplomatic dialogue aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. By those resolutions, the Council significantly strengthened and expanded the scope of the sanctions regime by introducing new sanction measures in areas including commodities, proliferation networks, overseas DPRK workers and maritime measures. As a result, the 1718 sanctions regime currently contains over 26 sanctions measures.

Specifically, by SC res. 2270 (2016), the Security Council significantly strengthened and expanded existing sanctions by extending the arms embargo and non-proliferation measures, expanding financial sanctions and instituting a ban on DPRK banks, along with prohibitions on foreign banks operating in the DPRK. The resolution also broadened interdiction measures by enforcing new cargo inspections and maritime procedures. States are also required to expel DPRK diplomats and foreign nationals if they are involved in activities prohibited by the resolutions. Sectoral bans (including coal, minerals and fuel) were introduced for the first time, and additional individuals, entities and vessels were designated and subject to assets freezes and/or travel bans.

SC. res 2321 (2016) further expanded the arms embargo to include a new conventional arms dual-use list and clarified provisions around inspection of personal baggage entering or departing the DPRK. Maritime provisions were expanded to cover the leasing, chartering, provision of crew services, provision of insurance or use of DPRK vessels (flagged or otherwise). The supply, sale or transfer to the DPRK of new helicopters and vessels was also restricted. A ban on the sale of copper, nickel, silver and zinc was added to sectoral sanctions, as well as an annual cap on the amount and value of coal exports by the DPRK and restrictions on aircraft fuel. The resolution strengthened the proliferation-network-related measures by requiring Member States to reduce the number of staff at DPRK diplomatic missions and consular posts, limiting the number of bank accounts and restricting property ownership. It imposed entry and transit restrictions for DPRK government officials and members of the armed forces, further strengthened financial measures around banking in the DPRK and clarified restrictions around specialized teaching and training as well as restricting scientific and technical cooperation. It also expanded the luxury goods ban and prohibited the DPRK from supplying, selling or transferring statues, unless an exemption is granted. Additional individuals and entities were designated by SC res. 2321 (2016) and SC res. 2356 (2017).

Sanctions were further strengthened by SC res. 2371 of 5 August 2017. This resolution introduced a full ban on coal, iron and iron ore, and added seafood, lead and lead ore to the banned commodities subject to sectoral sanctions. It authorized the 1718 Committee to designate vessels related to activities prohibited by relevant resolutions, prohibited port calls by designated vessels and chartering of DPRK-flagged vessels, and banned the hiring and paying of additional DPRK labourers used to generate foreign export earnings. It expanded financial sanctions by prohibiting new or expanded joint ventures and cooperative commercial entities with the DPRK. It also designated additional individuals and entities.

By SC resolutions 2375 (2017) and 2397 (2017), adopted on 11 September and 22 December 2017, respectively, the Council significantly expanded existing sanctions measures, established new measures and requested regular monitoring from Member States, the Panel of Experts and the 1718 Committee. Particularly, it substantially expanded financial sanctions by prohibiting all new and existing joint ventures or cooperative entities with any DPRK entities or individuals; expanded sectoral sanctions by introducing a ban on the DPRK's export of textile, food and agricultural products, machinery, electrical equipment, earth and stone, including magnesite and magnesia, wood and vessels; introduced a full ban on the supply, sale or transfer of all condensates and natural gas liquids to the DPRK and a limit for the supply, sale or transfer to the DPRK of all refined petroleum products with very specific preconditions and follow-up action required by Member States, the 1718 Committee, the Panel and the Committee Secretary.

Under the resolutions, the Council also introduced a ban on the supply, sale or transfer to the DPRK of all industrial machinery, transportation vehicles, iron, steel and other metals; and strengthened the ban on providing work authorizations for DPRK nationals. Under the same resolutions, the Council also strengthened maritime measures to address the issue of sanctions evasion via the sea, including ship-to-ship transfers. In this regard, the Security Council also directed the 1718 Committee to designate vessels transporting prohibited items from the DPRK, to be subject to a ban on port calls, deflagging and/or assets freeze. More detailed information is available on the website under 'Resolutions'.

In SC res. 2397 (2017), the Council also reaffirmed that none of the sanctions measures imposed was intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK or to affect negatively or restrict those activities, including humanitarian assistance, and determined that the Committee may, on a case-by-case basis, grant exemptions to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in the DPRK.

On 6 August 2018, the Committee adopted its seventh implementation assistance notice (IAN No.7), entitled 'Guidelines for Obtaining Exemptions to Deliver Humanitarian Assistance to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea'. The IAN provides guidance on the establishment of the Committee's comprehensive humanitarian exemption mechanism, and offers assistance to Member States and international and non-governmental organizations carrying out humanitarian assistance activities in the DPRK. The IAN was updated by the Committee on 30 November 2020, in order to further simplify several areas of the application process for humanitarian exemptions requests. In addition, the Committee extended its practice of expedited approval procedures to include extension and amendment requests of humanitarian exemptions, as well as urgent requests for onset emergencies such as pandemic outbreaks and natural disasters. On 2 June 2023, the IAN was further updated to incorporate the relevant elements of SC res. 2664 (2022), specifying its application in the context of humanitarian assistance in the DPRK. More detailed information is available on the website under 'Humanitarian Exemption Requests'.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Evangelos Sekeris, Greece

Vice-Chairs
Panama
ROK

Note

1 After 15 years of continuous work in support of the 1718 Committee, the mandate of the Panel of Experts was not renewed beyond 30 April 2024 due to a veto on the draft Security Council resolution extending the Panel's mandate.

SC Res. 1970 Sanctions Committee (Libya)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1970

SC res. 1970 (2011) responded to violence perpetrated by Muammar Qadhafi on the Libyan people. It imposed immediate measures, including an arms embargo, a travel ban and an assets freeze on key regime figures, including Muammar Qadhafi's family and certain government officials. The Committee, established on 26 February 2011 by SC res. 1970 (2011), was mandated to monitor the implementation of measures imposed in relation to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; take action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with the measures; and to designate additional individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and assets freeze. SC res. 1973 (2011) imposed additional measures, including a ban on flights of Libyan aircraft, and expanded the Committee's mandate to oversee them. The resolution also established a Panel of Experts to assist the Committee.

Subsequent Security Council resolutions have updated existing measures, introduced new measures and broadened or further elaborated the designation criteria. SC res. 2009 (2011) terminated the ban on flights of Libyan aircraft, and SC res. 2040 (2012) amended a provision related to the enforcement of the arms embargo and modified the mandate of a slimmed-down Panel of Experts. SC res. 2146 (2014) authorized Member States to inspect on the high seas vessels designated by the Committee as attempting to illicitly export crude oil from Libya and imposed a number of measures on such designated vessels. The resolution also extended the mandate and size of the Panel of Experts. SC res. 2278 (2016) requested the then Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) to appoint and notify the Committee of a focal point responsible for communication with the Committee on arms embargo issues.

SC res. 2292 (2016) authorized, for a period of 12 months, inspections on the high seas off the coast of Libya, of vessels that are believed to be carrying arms or related materiel to or from Libya in violation of the arms embargo. SC res. 2362 (2017) extended the authorizations of the measures in relation to attempts to illicitly export crude oil from Libya, and expanded their applicability to petroleum, and SC res. 2441 (2018) also requested the Panel to report on illicit imports of petroleum to Libya. SC res. 2733 (2024) elaborated further the obligations of Member States and the role of the Committee in terms of disposal of items seized during the vessel inspections. SC res. 2769 (2025) extended the measures against illicit petroleum exports from Libya until 1 May 2026 and renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 15 May 2026. It also exempted certain activities from the arms embargo, allowed for the investment of frozen assets and further elaborated the designation criteria. SC res. 2780 (2025) extended the authorizations set out in SC res. 2292 (2016) for a further six months to 29 November 2025. More detailed information is available on the website under 'Resolutions'.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Mohamed Rabi Yusuf, Somalia

Vice-Chair
Greece

SC Res. 2048 Sanctions Committee (Guinea-Bissau)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/2048

The Committee was established on 18 May 2012 by SC. res. 2048, following the military coup in Guinea-Bissau on 12 April 2012. Its role is to oversee travel restrictions imposed on certain members of the military leadership. As at July 2025, there were 10 individuals subject to the travel restrictions.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Guyana

Vice-Chair
Somalia

SC Res. 2140 Sanctions Committee (Yemen)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/2140

The Security Council first imposed a travel ban and an assets freeze against individuals or entities engaging in or supporting acts that threaten the peace, security and stability of Yemen on 26 February 2014 by SC res. 2140. The resolution also established a Panel of Experts to assist the Committee in monitoring implementation of the measures, currently composed of five members. The mandate of the Panel of Experts was most recently extended to 15 December 2025, and of the travel ban and assets freeze until 15 November 2025, by SC res. 2758 (2024).

SC res. 2216 (2015) broadened the scope of the measures to include a targeted arms embargo and increased the number of individuals subject to the three measures; SC res. 2564 (2021) further increased the number of individuals, and SC res. 2624 (2022) listed an entity as subject to the targeted arms embargo. SC res. 2216 (2015) and SC res. 2511 (2020) further elaborated the designation criteria to include violations of the arms embargo, obstruction of the delivery, access to and distribution of humanitarian assistance, sexual violence in armed conflict and the recruitment or use of children in armed conflict in violation of international law. The targeted arms embargo is not timebound. SC res. 2511 (2020) introduced an exemption to the targeted arms embargo and additional exemptions to the travel ban and assets freeze, in the interest of facilitating humanitarian assistance.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Joonkook Hwang, ROK

Vice-Chair
Slovenia

SC Res. 2206 Sanctions Committee (South Sudan)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/2206

The Security Council first imposed a travel ban and an assets freeze against individuals or entities engaging in or supporting acts that threaten the peace, security and stability of South Sudan on 3 March 2015 by SC res. 2206. In SC res. 2428 of 31 July 2018, the Council renewed the existing measures and imposed an arms embargo. The work of the Committee is supported by a Panel of Experts on South Sudan.

The sanctions regime was most recently extended in May 2025 by SC res. 2781. By this resolution, the Council renewed the travel ban and assets freeze laid out in SC res. 2206 (2015) and the arms embargo imposed by SC res. 2428 (2018) until 31 May 2026, and reaffirmed the provisions of paragraph 5 of SC res. 2428 (2018) as well as paragraph 2 of SC res. 2683 (2023), which removed the notification requirement for the supply, sale or transfer of non-lethal military equipment, solely in support of the implementation of the terms of the peace agreement, and related technical assistance or training on non-lethal military equipment. SC res. 2781 (2025) also extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 1 July 2026. The Council reiterated its readiness to review the arms embargo measures through, among other things, modification, suspension or progressive lifting of these measures, in the light of progress achieved on the benchmarks established in paragraph 2 of SC res. 2577 (2021). It also requested the Secretary-General, in close consultation with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the Panel of Experts, to conduct, no later than 15 April 2026, an assessment of progress achieved on those benchmarks.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Michael Imran Kanu, Sierra Leone

Vice-Chair
Denmark

SC Res. 2653 Sanctions Committee (Haiti)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/2653

The Security Council established the Committee on 21 October 2022 under SC res. 2653 (2022). The resolution imposed a targeted arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze upon individuals and entities designated for such measures, who are responsible for or complicit in actions that threaten Haiti's peace, security or stability. Through SC res. 2699 (2023), the Security Council expanded the sanctions regime by imposing a territorial arms embargo. The Committee is supported by the Panel of Experts established pursuant to SC res. 2653 (2022), composed of four experts.

The regime has been extended twice, most recently until 18 October 2025 by SC res. 2752 (2024), which also expanded the scope of the arms embargo to include "arms and related material of all types", as well as "technical assistance, training, financial or other assistance, related to military activities", and renewed the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 18 November 2025. More detailed information is available on the website under 'Resolutions'.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Guyana

Vice-Chair
China

SC Res. 2745 Sanctions Committee (Central African Republic)

Website: https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/2745

The Committee was initially established on 5 December 2013 under SC res. 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic (CAR). The resolution imposed an arms embargo, initially for one year. SC res. 2134 of 28 January 2014 extended these measures, adding a travel ban and an assets freeze.

SC res. 2127 (2013) included authorizing the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) and requested the UN Secretary-General to undertake contingency preparations for the possible transformation of MISCA into a UN peacekeeping operation. SC res. 2134 (2014) authorized the European Union to deploy an operation in the CAR. SC res. 2149 (2014) included the establishment of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and provided it with the mandate to assist the Committee in the implementation of its tasks.

On 30 July 2024, the Security Council adopted resolution 2745 (2024), by which it lifted the arms embargo established under SC res. 2127 (2013) and changed the name of the Committee to 'Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 2745 (2024)'. The Council decided that all Member States shall take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer of arms and related materiel of all types to armed groups and associated individuals operating in the CAR, until 31 July 2025. The regime was extended until 31 July 2026 by SC res. 2789 (2025). The Committee's role is to oversee the implementation of measures imposed by resolutions 2127 and 2134, as amended and extended by resolutions 2745 and 2789. It is assisted by a Panel of Experts comprising five members, whose mandate was extended by SC res. 2789 (2025) until 31 August 2026.

More detailed information is available on the website under 'Resolutions'.

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Amar Bendjama, Algeria

Vice-Chair
Guyana

Terminated Sanctions Committees

SC Res. 2374 Sanctions Committee (Mali)

The committee was established by SC res. 2374 (2017) to oversee sanctions measures against Mali. The sanctions measures expired on 31 August 2023.

Other past sanctions committees

See https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/terminated-sanctions

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Website: https://peacekeeping.un.org/en
X: @UNPeacekeeping

Seventy-one UN peacekeeping operations have been deployed since 1948. There are 11 current peacekeeping operations. As at 28 February 2025, there were 61,353 uniformed personnel (troops, experts, police and staff officers) along with 1011 UN Volunteers and 7500 international and local civilian personnel (as at December 2024) serving in peacekeeping operations. There have been more than 4400 fatalities in all UN peace operations since 1948, of which more than 2200 have occurred in current operations.

The budget for UN peacekeeping operations for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 was about $5.6 billion. Two operations, the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), are funded from the UN regular budget, while the other nine peacekeeping missions are financed from their own separate accounts on the basis of legally binding assessments on all states.

The mandates of most operations are renewed periodically or are subjected to reviews. Figures for operational strength, which may include military, police and civilian personnel, vary from month to month because of the rotation of contingents and personnel. More information is available on the website: global peacekeeping data under 'Resources', then 'Data', and fact sheets for each mission under 'Where we operate'.

Operations follow here in chronological order of establishment.

UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

Headquarters: Jerusalem

Website: http://untso.unmissions.org or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/untso
Head of Mission and Chief of Staff: Major General Patrick Gauchat, Switzerland (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in October 2021)

Following the outbreak of the 1948 Arab–Israeli war, the Security Council called for the cessation of hostilities in Palestine (SC res. 50 (1948)). To support this effort, the Security Council called for the UN Mediator to supervise the truce with the assistance of military observers and established UNTSO in May 1948. Since then, UNTSO has performed various tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council, including supervision of the General Armistice Agreements of 1949 and observation of the ceasefire in the Suez Canal area and the Golan following the Arab–Israeli war of June 1967.

UNTSO currently performs its core function of liaison with governmental authorities, primarily military and security, as well as members of the diplomatic community in the five UNTSO host countries (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian AR). UNTSO also contributes to the mandate implementation of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon through the deployment of military observers to Observer Group Golan and Observer Group Lebanon, respectively.

UNTSO maintains its headquarters in Jerusalem and has liaison offices in Beirut, Cairo and Damascus. As of February 2025, UNTSO comprised 151 experts on mission and 209 civilian staff. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

Headquarters: Nov–Apr Islamabad, Pakistan. May–Oct Srinagar, India

Website: https://unmogip.unmissions.org/ or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmogip
Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer: Major General Ramón Guardado Sánchez, Mexico (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2024)

SC res. 39 (1948) established a three-member UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate the dispute over the status of Kashmir. Following the adoption of SC res. 47 (1948), the Security Council enlarged UNCIP to five members and included the use of observers to supervise the observance of the ceasefire. In 1949, the Secretary-General appointed a military adviser to assist UNCIP, who, together with the military observers, eventually formed the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) in January 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the outbreak of hostilities in Kashmir in 1965, the Security Council asked the Secretary-General to strengthen UNMOGIP (SC res. 210 (1965)), and a number of other governments agreed to provide additional observers. As a result, the UN India–Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM) was created as a temporary measure to supervise the ceasefire called for in SC res. 211 (1965) and to supervise withdrawals. After fulfilling its function, UNIPOM was disbanded and UNMOGIP reverted to its original strength. UNMOGIP has an open mandate and has remained in the area to observe developments pertaining to the strict observance of the ceasefire of 17 December 1971 and report on them to the Secretary-General in accordance with SC res. 307 (1971).

UNMOGIP has an authorized ceiling of 44 military observers and 75 civilian staff. As at February 2025, UNMOGIP comprised 37 military observers and 69 civilian staff. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Headquarters: Nicosia, Cyprus

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNFICYP/
X: @UN_CYPRUS

Website: unficyp.unmissions.org/ or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unficyp
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General: Colin Stewart, Canada (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2021)
Force Commander: Major General Erdenebat Batsuuri, Mongolia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2024)

Cyprus became independent in 1960 with a constitution that was intended to balance the interests of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Cyprus, Greece, Türkiye and the UK entered into a treaty to guarantee the basic provisions of the constitution and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Cyprus.

A series of constitutional crises resulted, however, in the outbreak of intercommunal violence in December 1963. After all attempts to restore peace failed, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 186 (1964), which recommended the establishment of UNFICYP. The Force was declared operational on 27 March 1964. SC res. 186 recommended stationing of

the Force for three months. UNFICYP's mandate has since been renewed, most recently by SC res. 2771 (2025), which extended the mission for a further year to 31 January 2026.

The principal functions of UNFICYP are to prevent the recurrence of fighting, support law and order when relevant, and bolster conditions for sustainable peace. Through its activities, UNFICYP contributes to maintaining calm and an environment conducive to a political solution in Cyprus.

In earlier years, the cost of UNFICYP was met by the governments that provided military contingents and by voluntary contributions. GA res. 47/236 (1993) decided UNFICYP costs not covered by voluntary contributions should be financed from contributions assessed on the entire membership.

As at June 2025, UNFICYP comprised 800 military personnel (686 men and 114 women), 68 police (39 men and 29 women) and 152 civilian personnel. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

Headquarters: Camp Faouar, Golan, Syrian AR

Website: https://undof.unmissions.org or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/undof
Head of Mission and Force Commander: Major General Anita Asmah, Ghana (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in December 2024)

By SC res. 350 (1974), following the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces of 1974, the Security Council established UNDOF to supervise the implementation of the Agreement. It was deployed on the Golan in May 1974, with membership drawn from countries that are not permanent members of the Security Council. The UNDOF mandate has been renewed by successive Security Council resolutions, most recently by SC res. 2782 (2025), which extended the mandate until 31 December 2025.

The strength of UNDOF is prescribed by the 1974 Disengagement of Forces Agreement as about 1250. As at February 2025, UNDOF comprised 1114 troops, 59 staff officers and 126 civilian staff. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Headquarters: Naqoura, South Lebanon

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNIFIL/
X: @UNIFIL_

Website: https://unifil.unmissions.org or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unifil
Head of Mission and Force Commander: Lieutenant General Aroldo Lázaro Sáenz, Spain (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in February 2022)

In the early 1970s, tension along the Israel–Lebanon border increased, especially after the relocation of Palestinian armed elements from Jordan to Lebanon. Israel invaded Lebanon in March 1978, responding to repeated attacks on its territory by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Security Council subsequently adopted resolutions 425 and 426 (1978), establishing UNIFIL. The Mission was mandated to confirm the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), restore international peace and security and assist the Government of Lebanon in ensuring the return of its effective authority in the area.

On 12 July 2006, Hizbullah carried out an attack on Israel, leading to an escalation of hostilities in Lebanon and Israel. A cessation of hostilities was reached on 14 August 2006, following the adoption of SC res. 1701 (2006) on 11 August. This resolution expanded UNIFIL's mandate to include monitoring the cessation of hostilities; accompanying and

supporting the Lebanese Armed Forces as they deploy throughout the south of Lebanon; extending its assistance to help ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons; assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces in taking steps towards the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL; and taking all necessary action to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind. SC res. 1701 also authorized an increase in UNIFIL strength, to a maximum of 15,000 troops. SC res. 2539 (2020) reduced the maximum number of authorized troops from 15,000 to 13,000. UNIFIL's mandate continues to be renewed on a yearly basis, most recently by SC res. 2749 (2024) until 31 August 2025.

Thirteen months of intense hostilities between Hizbullah and other non-state armed groups in Lebanon and Israel caused large-scale destruction, displacement and civilian casualties on both sides of the Blue Line, but particularly in Lebanon, until a cessation of hostilities came into effect on 27 November 2024. Despite the dangers posed to peacekeepers during the hostilities, UNIFIL remained in position. Since the cessation of hostilities came into effect, the Mission has adapted its operations to support the parties to uphold their respective obligations to fully implement SC res. 1701 (2006), in close coordination with the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL).

As of May 2025, UNIFIL comprised 9829 military personnel, including approximately 700 maritime personnel as part of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force, and 788 civilian staff. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

Headquarters: Laayoune, Western Sahara

Website: https://minurso.unmissions.org or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minurso
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of MINURSO: Alexander Ivanko, Russian Federation (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2021)
Force Commander: Md Fakhrul Ahsan, Bangladesh (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2023)

MINURSO was established by SC res. 690 (1991) in accordance with settlement proposals that provided for a transitional period for the preparation of a referendum in which the people of Western Sahara would choose between independence and integration with Morocco. The resolution also agreed a plan for a referendum involving MINURSO civilian, security and military units supervising the repatriation of Western Saharans identified as eligible to vote.

By SC res. 973 (1995), the MINURSO Identification Commission was expanded to accelerate the voter identification and registration process. By SC res. 995 (1995), and in the context of concern at practices hampering progress towards the implementation of the Settlement Plan, the Security Council decided to send a mission to the region.

By SC res. 2756 (2024), the Mission's mandate was extended until 31 October 2025. This resolution emphasized the need to reach a political solution based on compromise and the importance of aligning MINURSO's strategic focus and UN resources toward that end.

The mandated strength of MINURSO is 245 military personnel. As at February 2025, MINURSO comprised 466 total personnel, including 196 experts on mission, 19 contingent troops, five staff officers, 230 civilian staff and 14 UN Volunteers. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

Headquarters: Pristina, Kosovo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNMIK/
X: @UNMIKosovo

Website: https://unmik.unmissions.org or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmik
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General: Caroline Ziadeh, Lebanon (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2021)

UNMIK was established by SC res. 1244 (1999) with the mandate to help ensure conditions for peaceful and normal life in Kosovo. The Mission's broad tasks included: the establishment, pending a final settlement, of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo; performing basic civilian administrative functions; overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic self-government, including holding elections; facilitating a political process to determine Kosovo's future status; supporting reconstruction; maintaining civil law and order; protecting and promoting human rights; and assuring the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes.

Following Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence in 2008, UNMIK underwent a reconfiguration while continuing to operate in the overall framework of SC res. 1244 (1999). The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) undertook an enhanced operational role. In the area of rule of law, UNMIK shifted its focus to monitoring and reporting, community facilitation and the promotion of security, stability and respect for the rule of law and human rights, while maintaining a status-neutral framework. UNMIK also continues to carry out certain residual functions related to external representation, regional cooperation and oversight of the handover of socially owned property from the international security presence – the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General continues to ensure a coordinated approach by the international civil presence with other international actors under SC res. 1244 (1999). The Mission has prioritized support for building trust among Kosovo communities, strengthening the adherence to the rule of law and human rights, and meaningful participation of women and youth in political and decision-making processes. It works closely with the UN Kosovo team and its Development Coordinator toward advancing the common objectives of consolidating peace and security, respect for human rights and promoting sustainable development.

As at February 2025, UNMIK comprised 347 international and local personnel. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

Headquarters: Kinshasa, DR Congo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/monusco.org/
X: @MONUSCO

Website: https://monusco.unmissions.org/en or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/monusco
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO: Bintou Keita, Guinea (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2021)
Force Commander: Lieutenant General Ulisses de Mesquita Gomes, Brazil (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2025)
Acting Police Commissioner: Senougnon Alain Bamenou, Benin (since February 2025)

Following the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement in July 1999 between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and five regional states (Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe), the Security Council established the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) by SC res. 1279 of 30 November 1999 to plan for the

observation of the ceasefire and disengagement of forces and maintain liaison with all parties to the Ceasefire Agreement. The Council subsequently expanded the mandate of MONUC to the supervision of the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement and assigned multiple related additional tasks.

On 1 July 2010, the Security Council renamed MONUC the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to reflect the new phase reached in the country (SC res. 1925). Although significant progress had been achieved in stabilizing many regions of the country, the eastern part continued to be plagued by recurrent waves of conflict characterized by the continued presence of domestic and foreign armed groups, the illegal exploitation of resources, intercommunal feuds, prevailing impunity, and the weak capacity of national authorities to effectively protect civilians, secure national borders, and ensure law and order.

In March 2013, the Security Council authorized the deployment of a specialized 'Force Intervention Brigade' (FIB), mandated to carry out targeted offensive operations to neutralize armed groups (SC res. 2098 (2013)).

Presidential and legislative elections in December 2018 resulted in the DR Congo's first ever peaceful transfer of democratic power in January 2019. Following this significant milestone in the country's history, SC res. 2502 (2019) set out MONUSCO's strategic priorities as follows: protecting civilians; support for stabilizing and strengthening national state institutions; and support for key governance and security reforms. SC res. 2556 (2020) renewed MONUSCO's mandate and priorities and endorsed a joint strategy for a progressive and phased drawdown (S/2020/1041). In line with the Transition Plan (S/2021/807), SC res. 2612 (2021) reduced the troop ceiling slightly, from 14,000 to 13,350, and requested MONUSCO to consolidate its presence in Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu provinces to support the Congolese authorities, in coordination with the UN country team, to achieve the Mission's end state and pave the way for the completion of its mission and its exit. The Government, MONUSCO and the UN subsequently developed a comprehensive disengagement plan (S/2023/904) involving three distinct and successive phases and the gradual handover of responsibilities to Congolese authorities. On 30 June 2024, in accordance with SC res. 2717 (2023), the Mission concluded its mandated activities in South Kivu, marking completion of the first phase of its disengagement.

In December 2024, SC res. 2765 extended MONUSCO's mandate for one year, maintaining the Mission's three priorities as the protection of civilians; support to disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and stabilisation; and security sector reform. SC res. 2765 maintained the troop ceiling at 11,500 military personnel, 600 military observers and staff officers, 443 police and 1270 personnel of formed police units.

Following the fall of Goma at the end of January 2025, the *Mouvement de 23 mars* (M23) established a parallel administration in territories under its control. MONUSCO nonetheless continues to implement its mandate, including outside M23-controlled territories where 60 percent of the Force continues to protect civilians. Intensified regional and international efforts to restore dialogue between the parties led to SC res. 2773 (2025), which called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and the full withdrawal of the M23 and foreign forces, and proposes a role for MONUSCO in the implementation and monitoring of a ceasefire agreement, once finalized.

As of June 2025, MONUSCO had a total of 2010 national and international civilian staff (74 percent men and 26 percent women), and 249 UN Volunteers, performing a wide variety of substantive and support functions. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

Headquarters: Abyei Town

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unisfa/
X: @UNISFA_1

Website: https://unisfa.unmissions.org/ or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unisfa
Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander: Major General Robert Yaw Affram, Ghana (assumed post July 2024)

SC res. 1990 (27 June 2011) established UNISFA following renewed violence, escalating tensions and population in the Abyei region, which straddles Sudan and South Sudan.

UNISFA is mandated to monitor and verify the effective demilitarization of the Abyei area and to take necessary actions to protect civilians and humanitarian workers in the area. UNISFA also supports implementation of the security aspects of the 20 June 2011 Abyei Agreement more generally and provides support to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM).

In SC res. 2469 (2019), the Council decided to increase the authorized police ceiling to 640 police personnel, including 148 individual police officers and three formed police units, and to reduce the authorized troop ceiling to 3550. In SC res. 2609 (2021), the Council decided to reduce the troop ceiling to 3250.

The Mission's mandate was most recently extended by SC res. 2760 (2024) until 15 November 2025, which also renewed the Force's mandate to provide support to the JBVMM. Further, the Council requested that the Secretary-General conduct a strategic review of UNISFA's effectiveness, strategic objectives and alignment with the evolving regional security situation by 15 August 2025.

Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Headquarters: Juba, South Sudan

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsMissionInSouthSudan/
X: @unmissmedia

Website: https://unmiss.unmissions.org or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmiss
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General: Nicholas Haysom, South Africa (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2021)
Force Commander: Lieutenant General Mohan Subramanian, India (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2022)

UNMISS was established on 9 July 2011 by SC res. 1996 (2011), the same day that South Sudan became the newest country in the world. It replaced the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which had been established by SC res. 1590 (2005).

Under SC res. 1996 (2011), the Mission was mandated to undertake a range of state-building and peacebuilding activities. Following the outbreak of violence in Juba on 15 December 2013, and the ensuing political and security crisis in the country, on 27 May 2014, in its resolution 2155 (2014), the Security Council ceased the Mission's functions related to state-building and peacebuilding and limited its tasks to the protection of civilians; monitoring and investigating human rights; contributing to the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and supporting the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement. In that resolution, the Council also formally increased the UNMISS uniformed strength to 12,500 military and 1323

police personnel. It authorized the Mission to 'use all necessary means' to perform the tasks outlined in the resolution, including an additional responsibility to protect the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Monitoring and Verification Mechanism.

SC res. 2304 (2016) increased the authorized strength of UNMISS by maintaining the troop ceiling of 17,000 military personnel, including 4000 for a Regional Protection Force (RPF). SC res. 2327 (2016) increased the police ceiling to 2101 police personnel and authorized the RPF to use all necessary means – including robust action where necessary – to accomplish its mandate. The Mission's mandate was most recently extended by SC res. 2779 (2025) until 30 April 2026.

As at February 2025, UNMISS comprised 18,120 total personnel, including 13,243 military personnel, 1550 police, 438 staff officers, 234 experts on mission, 2257 civilian staff and 398 UN Volunteers. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

Headquarters: Bangui, Central African Republic

Facebook: www.facebook.com/minusca.unmissions
X: @UN_CAR

Website: https://minusca.unmissions.org/ or https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusca
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of Mission: Valentine Rugwabiza, Rwanda (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in February 2022)
Force Commander: Major General Humphrey Nyone, Zambia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2023)

MINUSCA is mandated to protect civilians and to support the extension of state authority, the deployment of security forces, and the preservation of territorial integrity, creating the conditions conducive to the full implementation of the 2019 Political Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation via the joint road map for peace in the Central African Republic of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Its tasks include assisting the Central African Republic authorities' efforts at national and local levels; facilitating the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid; and protecting the UN in the Central African Republic. Other priorities include support for security sector reform; disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation processes; the promotion and protection of human rights; support to the Republican Dialogue and the preparation and delivery of peaceful local and general presidential and legislative elections in 2024 and 2025; and support for international and national justice, the fight against impunity and the rule of law.

The Security Council established MINUSCA by SC res. 2149 of 10 April 2014. MINUSCA subsumed the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) on the date of its establishment. On 15 September 2014, the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) transferred its authority to MINUSCA, in accordance with SC res. 2149 (2014). Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Security Council authorized MINUSCA to take all necessary means to carry out its mandate within its capabilities and areas of deployment.

In SC res. 2552 (2020), the Council provided MINUSCA with a full electoral support mandate, in view of the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for December 2020 and the local elections that followed.

SC res. 2566 (2021) raised the troop ceiling by 2750 military and 940 police personnel. The authorized uniformed strength of MINUSCA now stands at 17,420 uniformed personnel, including 14,400 military and 3020 police personnel as well as 108 corrections officers. MINUSCA's mandate was most recently renewed until 15 November 2025 by SC res. 2759 (2024).

As at February 2025, MINUSCA comprised 18,568 total personnel, including 14,038 military personnel, 3011 police personnel and 1371 civilian personnel, including 248 UN Volunteers. Current strength and country contributor information is available on the UN Peacekeeping website under 'Where we operate' and 'Current operations'.

Past peacekeeping operations

See https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/past-peacekeeping-operations

SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS

Website: https://dppa.un.org/en/dppa-around-world
X: @UNDPPA

The UN special political missions (SPMs) are among the most flexible tools for the pursuit of peace and security. The missions vary considerably with regard to their mandates, scope, structure and approaches. They range from special envoys and representatives of the Secretary-General, carrying out good offices mandates on his behalf, and monitoring teams, groups and panels supporting Security Council sanctions regimes, to missions delivering on specialized tasks such as supporting border demarcation efforts, and larger missions with comprehensive mandates to support political transitions and efforts to build sustainable peace. Three regional offices, in Central Africa, Central Asia, and West Africa and the Sahel, serve as forward platforms for preventive diplomacy and dialogue and work closely with their regional counterparts on transnational peace and security issues affecting the regions in which they are based.

Through this diversity in scope, mandate and coverage, SPMs work to sustain peace throughout the conflict cycle and engage in peacemaking, peacebuilding and conflict prevention work. They do so in close coordination with national counterparts, UN development, human rights and humanitarian partners, and regional and international organizations.

In most cases, SPMs are established by a decision of the Security Council and/or the General Assembly. In the pursuit of his good offices, the Secretary-General can also establish an SPM following an exchange of letters with the Security Council. SPMs are usually overseen by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA).

As at 1 July 2025, the UN supported 37 SPMs comprising around 3400 civilian staff. The DPPA oversees 33 of these missions. For more information, see A/79/303 and A/80/6(Sect.3)/Add.1. The missions listed in this section are the 12 SPMs currently managed by the DPPA. Good offices mandates are listed in the Secretariat chapter of this book. An overview of current and past SPMs is available on the website under 'DPPA Around the World'.

UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Headquarters: Kabul, Afghanistan

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNAMA.News
X: @UNAMAnews

Website: unama.unmissions.org
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNAMA: Roza Otunbayeva, Kyrgyzstan (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2022)

UNAMA was established under SC res. 1401 (2002) at the request of the Afghan Government to assist it in laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development in the country. It succeeded the UN Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA), which was established by GA res. 48/208 (1993). UNAMA's original mandate was aimed at supporting the process of rebuilding and national reconciliation outlined in the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001 (S/2001/1154). Its current mandate, adopted folllowing the Taliban takeover of the country in August 2021, was most recently extended by SC res. 2777 (2025) to 17 March 2026.

The Mission's priorities include: coordinating and facilitating humanitarian assistance; providing good offices, including to facilitate dialogue between all relevant Afghan actors and stakeholders to promote inclusive, representative, participatory and responsive governance; protecting and promoting human rights; promoting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment; monitoring and reporting on violations against children; and supporting regional cooperation for stability and peace.

UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

Headquarters: Libreville, Gabon
Telephone: +241 01 44 47 16
Email: piounoca@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unoca.onu/
X: @UNOCA_NEWS
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@UNOCA_UN

Website: http://unoca.unmissions.org
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of Office: Abdou Abarry, Niger (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2022)

Established on 1 January 2011, UNOCA was officially inaugurated on 2 March 2011 with an initial mandate of two years, which was most recently renewed on 30 August 2024 until 31 August 2027 (S/2024/648 and S/2024/649). A strategic review was conducted in 2019 (S/2019/625), following which the Security Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2019/10). The Office is designed to monitor political developments in Central Africa, carry out good offices and special assignments on behalf of the Secretary-General, advise the Secretary-General and UN entities in the region on sustaining peace issues in Central Africa, and enhance sub-regional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation in countries of the sub-region, in particular those facing electoral or institutional crises or violent conflicts. It supports and enhances UN efforts in Central Africa as well as regional and sub-regional initiatives on peace and security, including to tackle cross-border challenges such as the proliferation of small arms and light weapons; the adverse implications of climate change, energy poverty, ecological changes and natural disasters; farmer–herder dynamics; the presence of armed groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); illicit trafficking in natural resources and wildlife; terrorism, particularly by Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups; and piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. UNOCA also enhances coherence and coordination in the work of the UN in the sub-region on peace and security, as well as with the UN Office on West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) on cross-cutting and cross-border issues.

The Office works closely with sub-regional organizations such as the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), which comprises Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and São Tomé and Príncipe as well as the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). Since May 2011, UNOCA has served as Secretariat of the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), which has the same membership as ECCAS.

UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

Headquarters: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Telephone: +993 12 48 16 12/13/14
Fax: +993 12 48 16 07
Email: unrcca-dpa@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unrcca
X: @UNRCCA

Website: http://unrcca.unmissions.org
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia: Kaha Imnadze, Georgia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2023)

UNRCCA is an initiative of the UN and all five Central Asian countries. Its goal is to assist and support the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in building their conflict-prevention capacities through enhanced dialogue, confidence-building measures and genuine partnership in order to respond to existing threats and emerging challenges in the Central Asian region (S/2007/279). The Regional Centre was inaugurated in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 10 December 2007.

UN Verification Mission in Colombia

Headquarters: Bogotá, Colombia

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MisionONUCol/
X: @MisionONUCol

Website: http://colombia.unmissions.org/en
Head of Mission and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General: Appointment pending

The UN Verification Mission in Colombia (the Verification Mission), established by SC res. 2366 (2017), commenced its activities on 26 September 2017, immediately after the completion of the mandate of the UN Mission in Colombia. That mission had been mandated to monitor and verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire, laying down of weapons and cessation of hostilities in Colombia, following the signing of the Final Peace Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP).

The Verification Mission was tasked with verifying the implementation of certain aspects of the Final Peace Agreement, including the process of political, economic and social reincorporation of the FARC-EP; the implementation of individual and collective security guarantees; and comprehensive programmes on security and protection measures for communities and organizations in the territories. SC res. 2574 (2021) expanded the mandate to include verifying compliance with and implementation of the restorative sentences issued by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, as envisioned under the 2016 Final Peace Agreement. SC res. 2673 (2023) further expanded the mandate to include monitoring of the implementation of the comprehensive rural reform and ethnic chapters of the Final Peace Agreement. SC res. 2694 of 2 August 2023 mandated the Mission to verify and monitor the implementation of the Bilateral, National and Temporary Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of Colombia and the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN). The Verification Mission's mandate was most recently extended until 31 October 2025 by SC res. 2754 (2024).

Composed of civilian staff and unarmed international observers, the Verification Mission is headquartered in Bogotá and has a regional, sub-regional and local presence in areas most affected by the conflict.

UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)

Headquarters: Port-au-Prince, Haiti

X: @BINUH_UN

Website: https://binuh.unmissions.org or https://dppa.un.org/en/mission/binuh
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of BINUH: Carlos G Ruiz Massieu, Mexico (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2025)

BINUH was established in June 2019 by SC res. 2476 (2019) and commenced its activities on 16 October 2019, immediately after the completion of the mandate of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), marking the end of peacekeeping in Haiti. MINUJUSTH had been established by SC res. 2350 (2017) as a follow-up mission to the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH, established on 1 June 2004 by SC res. 1542). Most recently, in SC res. 2785 (2025), the Council extended BINUH's mandate for an additional year until 15 July 2026. Recalling all previous resolutions on BINUH, this resolution also expressed the Council's intention to consider the recommendations made by the Secretary-General on

24 February 2025 on the options for the possible role the UN could play to sustain security and stability in Haiti, and reaffirmed its commitment in supporting a comprehensive, Haitian-owned and -led solution that addresses the root causes of the current multidimensional crisis in Haiti.

BINUH is mandated to advise the Government of Haiti in the promotion and strengthening of political stability and good governance, including the rule of law; to preserve and advance a peaceful and stable environment, including through supporting an inclusive inter-Haitian national dialogue; and to protect and promote human rights. BINUH is also mandated to assist the government in its efforts to organize free and fair elections, strengthen police professionalism and community violence reduction and reduce gang violence, and advance justice and prison reform. Its efforts are in support of the Haitian long-term development objectives, and are integrated with those of the 19 entities of the UN country team, which deliver humanitarian assistance and implement development programmes in close coordination with national authorities.

SC res. 2699 (2023) authorized the deployment of a non-UN Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to Haiti. The MSS is mandated to provide operational support to the Haitian National Police (HNP) in its work to counter gangs and improve security conditions in Haiti and to cooperate with BINUH and relevant UN agencies to support the efforts of the HNP to re-establish security in Haiti.

SC res. 2785 (2025) reaffirms paragraphs 2–25 of SC res. 2743 (2024) on sanctions. SC res. 2743 encourages BINUH, in collaboration with the Sanctions Committee and other relevant entities, to assist the Haitian authorities in raising awareness of the reporting mechanisms for potential violations of sanctions by sharing the detailed provisions of the territorial arms embargo, as outlined in para. 14 of SC res. 2699 (2023), with the leadership of all relevant national institutions involved in its enforcement.

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Headquarters: Baghdad, Iraq
Telephone: +39 083 105 2700
Email: unami-information@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsIraq
X: @UNIraq

Website: https://iraq.un.org/en/132447-united-nations-assistance-mission-iraq-unami
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq and Head of UNAMI: Mohamed Al Hassan, Oman (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2024)

UNAMI was established by SC res. 1500 (2003), at the request of the Government of Iraq, to support the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his mandate under SC res. 1483 (2003). UNAMI's role was expanded with the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1546 (2004) and 1770 (2007) and renewed annually since then in subsequent resolutions. In June 2013, the Security Council adopted resolution 2107 requesting UNAMI to promote, support and facilitate efforts regarding missing Kuwaiti nationals and property, and further requested the Secretary-General to report separately to the Security Council on these matters.

On 31 May 2024, in SC res. 2732 (2024), the Security Council extended UNAMI's mandate for a final 19-month period until 31 December 2025. During this period, the Mission is implementing a streamlined mandate, including electoral assistance, including for the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women; facilitation of progress towards the final resolution of outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait, including the Missing Persons and Property file and recommendations for follow-on mechanisms on unresolved issues; the promotion, support and facilitation of development and humanitarian tasks; and the promotion of accountability and the protection of human rights.

Pursuant to SC res. 2732 (2024), in December 2024, the Secretary-General presented to the Security Council a transition and liquidation plan (S/2024/966) for the transfer of UNAMI's

tasks and the gradual drawdown of the Mission, and in May 2025, recommendations for a follow-on mechanism to support continued progress in the file of missing Kuwaiti persons and property (S/2025/320).

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)

Headquarters: Beirut, Lebanon
Telephone: +961 5 428 056
Fax: +961 5 428 042

Email: unscol-website@un.org
X: @UNSCOL

Website: http://unscol.unmissions.org
Special Coordinator for Lebanon: Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Netherlands (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2024)

The Special Coordinator for Lebanon is the senior UN official responsible for following up and reporting on the implementation of SC res. 1701 (2006) on Lebanon–Israel. The Special Coordinator is also the primary interlocutor with Lebanese authorities on all political matters and confers on a regular basis with the different political parties, Lebanese civil society and the diplomatic community.

The Office was established in February 2007. UNSCOL's work includes coordination of UN activities with the Government of Lebanon, the international donor community and international financial institutions in line with the overall UN objectives in Lebanon, with emphasis on promoting stability and conflict prevention. UNSCOL also provides overall political guidance to the UN country team and collaborates with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeeping operation in the implementation of SC res. 1701 (2006). UNSCOL leads efforts to support Lebanon in addressing the country's challenges, including through the coordination of international support for development, humanitarian assistance, reform and reconstruction activities.

Starting in October 2023, 13 months of intense hostilities between Hizbullah and other non-state armed groups in Lebanon and Israel caused large-scale destruction, displacement and civilian casualties on both sides of the Blue Line, and particularly in Lebanon, until a cessation of hostilities came into effect on 27 November 2024. UNSCOL is committed to supporting the parties to sustain the cessation of hostilities and fulfill their outstanding obligations under SC res. 1701 (2006), in close coordination with UNIFIL and in line with their respective mandates.

UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

Headquarters: Tripoli, Libya
Telephone: +218 92 304 8940 or +218 91 220 7565 (Public Information and Communications Office)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unsmil
X: @UNSMILibya
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/UNSMILPICS

Website: http://unsmil.unmissions.org
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL: Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Ghana (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2025)

UNSMIL was established by SC res. 2009 (2011) to support Libyan national efforts. Its mandate, as set out in SC res. 2542 (2020) and paragraph 16 of SC res. 2570 (2021), was most recently extended by SC res. 2755 (2024), until 31 October 2025. In SC res. 2542 (2020) and subsequent resolutions, the Council tasked UNSMIL to exercise mediation and through its good offices to further an inclusive political process and security and economic dialogue, and to support subsequent phases of the Libyan transition process, including the constitutional process and the organization of elections, and help to achieve a ceasefire. UNSMIL also

undertakes human rights monitoring and reporting; supports securing uncontrolled arms and related materiel and countering its proliferation; supports key Libyan institutions; assists with the provision of essential services and delivery of humanitarian assistance; and supports the coordination of international assistance.

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)

Headquarters: Jerusalem
Telephone: +972 2 568 7289
Fax: +972 2 568 7288
X: @UNSCO_MEPP

Website: https://unsco.unmissions.org
Officer-in-Charge of UNSCO (since July 2025): Ramiz Alakbarov, Azerbaijan, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (appointed 13 June 2025)

The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process leads the UN system in all political and diplomatic efforts related to the Middle East peace process and serves as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority, as well as the Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Middle East Quartet (Russian Federation, USA, European Union and UN). The Office also coordinates the humanitarian and development work of UN agencies and programmes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in support of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people. The first UN Special Coordinator was appointed, and the office of UNSCO established, in June 1994, following the signing of the Oslo I Accord.

UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS)

Headquarters: Mogadishu, Somalia
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNTMIS
X: @untmis

Website: https://untmis.unmissions.org/
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of UNTMIS: James Swan, USA (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2025)

UNTMIS was established following the Security Council's adoption of SC res. 2753 on 30 October 2024, and succeeded the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) on 1 November 2024.

UNSOM had been established on 3 June 2013 by SC res. 2102 to accompany Somalia's state-building and peacebuilding process following the establishment of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in September 2012. Its mandate was set out in SC resolutions 2158 (2014) and 2592 (2021), and most recently extended by SC res. 2705 (2023). On 5 and 8 May 2024, the FGS sent letters to the Security Council requesting the termination of UNSOM and the transition of the Special Political Mission to the UN country team. Subsequently, a letter dated 30 August 2024, from the UN Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, submitted the FGS's proposal for the transition of UNSOM to the UN country team over a two-year period.

In line with the Somali request, UNTMIS is mandated to undertake a two-phased transition of functions to Somali institutions, the UN country team and other stakeholders. During this phase, UNTMIS will continue with the tasks mandated to UNSOM by the Council in resolutions 2158 (2014), 2592 (2021) and 2705 (2023).

UNTMIS's priorities, as set out in SC res. 2753 (2024), are: support for state-building, including the constitutional review process and efforts to conduct free and fair elections; promotion and protection of human rights; rule of law, justice, corrections and security sector support; coordination of international donor support, working with bilateral and multilateral partners; and coordination of UN efforts in Somalia. Measures set out in paragraph 3 of SC res. 2753 (2024) constitute the first

phase of UNTMIS's transition, until 31 October 2025, and express the Security Council's intention to terminate the Mission's mandate at the end of the anticipated transition by 31 October 2026.

UNTMIS is headquartered in Mogadishu with offices deployed across Somalia as requested by the FGS and as security conditions permit. The mission has a presence in Baidoa, Belet Weyne, Garowe, Hargeisa, Kismayo and Mogadishu.

As at 1 July 2025, the authorized staffing complement of UNSOM includes 314 civilian personnel (166 international staff, 129 national staff and 19 UN Volunteers) and 20 government-provided personnel. The General Assembly also authorized budget allocation for a UN Guard Unit of up to 625 and 12 individual police officers (IPO) under the military component attached to the work of the mission (A/77/7/Add.5).

UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Headquarters: Dakar, Senegal
Telephone: +221 33 869 8585
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNOWAS
X: @UN_UNOWAS

Website: http://unowas.unmissions.org
Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General: Leonardo Santos Simão, Mozambique (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2023)

The then UN Office for West Africa (UNOWA) was the first UN regional conflict-prevention and peacebuilding office established, with an overall mandate to enhance the contributions of the UN towards the achievement of peace and security in West Africa. Following the Secretary-General's letter to the Security Council dated 14 January 2016 (S/2016/88) on the strategic review of the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES), the Council requested the Secretary-General, through a letter dated 28 January 2016 (S/2016/89), to merge UNOWA and the OSES into a single entity, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). The Council also encouraged UNOWAS to make further progress toward the implementation of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and to continue to work closely with Member States of the region to tackle the threats to peace, security and development in the Sahel, and their root causes. In addition, the Council approved the establishment of a UNOWAS Liaison Cell in Nouakchott, Mauritania, to strengthen UN engagement with the secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5-Sahel).

As requested by the Security Council in August 2019 (S/PRST/2019/7), the Secretary-General conducted an independent strategic review of the mandate and activities of UNOWAS (S/2019/890). The assessment recommended that the mandate be strengthened and broadened to allow the Office to better respond to existing and emerging threats, to provide support to post-transition countries following the drawdown of UN peace operations, and to scale up cross-pillar coordination and cooperation to ensure greater coherence in UN interaction with national and sub-regional entities.

The mandate of UNOWAS includes preventive diplomacy, good offices, political mediation and facilitation; supporting the implementation of UNISS in coordination with the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel; enhancement of regional and sub-regional partnerships to address cross-border and cross-cutting regional threats to peace and security; and promotion of good governance and respect for human rights, rule of law and gender mainstreaming in conflict prevention, management and resolution. The Council has extended the mandate of UNOWAS three times: in December 2016 (S/2016/1128), January 2020 (S/2020/85) and most recently in January 2022, until 31 January 2026 (S/2023/70 and S/2023/71).

UNOWAS works closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and other sub-regional entities, such as the Mano River Union, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Accra Initiative, the Gulf of Guinea Commission, and at the regional level with the African Union and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to address cross-border and cross-cutting threats to peace and security, including climate security, terrorism, violent extremism, transnational

organized crime, drug trafficking, other illicit forms of trafficking, piracy and maritime insecurity; and sustaining peace. In 2020, a UNOWAS Liaison Cell was established in Abuja, Nigeria, to further strengthen the partnership with ECOWAS. In February 2024, UNOWAS and the ECOWAS Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding to institutionalize their partnership.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel is also the Chair of the Cameroon–Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC), which facilitates the implementation of the International Court of Justice judgment of 10 October 2002 on the land and maritime boundary dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria.

UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA)

Headquarters: Hudaydah, Yemen

Website: https://unmha.unmissions.org
Acting Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee and Officer-in-Charge of UNMHA: Mari Yamashita, Japan (appointed Deputy Head of UNMHA in May 2024)

UNMHA was established on 16 January 2019 by SC res. 2452 for an initial period of six months to support implementation of the ceasefire agreement reached in Stockholm on 13 December 2018 (S/2018/1134) between the Government of Yemen and the Houthi movement covering the city and port of Hudaydah, as well as the ports of Saleef and Ras Isa. Its mandate has been extended several times, most recently until 28 January 2026 by SC res. 2786 (2025).

UNMHA is mandated to lead and support the Redeployment Coordination Committee tasked with overseeing the ceasefire, redeployment of forces and mine action operations; monitor compliance with the ceasefire; work with the parties to ensure that security is assured by local security forces, in accordance with Yemeni law; and facilitate and coordinate UN efforts to assist the parties in fully implementing the Agreement.

UNMHA's authorized personnel consists of up to 75 monitors as well as additional staff. For more recent information, see the website.

Past special political missions

UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)

UNSOM ceased operations on 31 October 2024, pursuant to SC res. 2753 (2024). The mission was established on 3 June 2013 by SC res. 2102.

UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS)

UNITAMS ceased operations on 29 February 2024, pursuant to SC res. 2715 (1 December 2023). The mission was established on 3 June 2020 by SC res. 2524.

Other past missions

See https://dppa.un.org/en/past-missions

COMMISSIONS

Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)

Website: www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission

Purpose

Leaders at the UN World Summit in September 2005 agreed to establish the PBC as an intergovernmental advisory body to assist conflict-afflicted countries. The Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) were also created at that time, and these three entities constitute the core of the Peacebuilding Architecture (PBA).

The PBC's key objectives are to:

- Bring sustained international attention to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and to provide political accompaniment and advocacy to countries affected by conflict
- Promote an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace
- Serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the UN by sharing advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities
- Serve as a platform to convene all relevant actors within and outside the UN, including from Member States, national authorities, UN missions and country teams, international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, civil society, women's groups, youth organizations and, where relevant, the private sector and national human rights institutions, in order to provide recommendations and information to improve coherence and coordination, to develop and share good practices in peacebuilding, including on institution-building, and to ensure predictable and sustained financing for peacebuilding.

The Commission discusses country situations (including the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Norway, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan, Timor-Leste and others) and regional peacebuilding challenges and opportunities (such as the Great Lakes region, Gulf of Guinea, Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel, among others). It advocates inclusivity, focusing on women and youth as well as engaging in thematic and cross-cutting issues. With the support of the PBSO, the PBC convenes Informal Interactive Strategic Dialogues with the PBF to build synergies between the core components of the PBA.

Structure

The PBC's institutional structures, including its membership and procedures, were established by GA res. 60/180 (2005) and SC res. 1645 (2005). These resolutions provided for a review of the PBC's founding arrangements after five years, which took place in 2010 (A/64/868 – S/2010/393). Subsequently, the General Assembly and Security Council have continued to review the PBA every five years, in 2016 underlining the centrality of peacebuilding and sustaining peace to prevent the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict (GA res. 65/7 (2010) and SC res. 1947 (2010)), and in 2020, calling on the Commission to continue strengthening its advisory, bridging and convening roles in support of nationally owned priorities and efforts in the countries and regions under its consideration (GA res. 75/201 (2020) and SC res. 2558 (2020)). A fourth review is taking place in 2025.

In Action 44 of the Pact for the Future, adopted in September 2024, the General Assembly decided to strengthen the PBC (GA res. 79/1).

Membership

The PBC Organizational Committee is composed of 31 members who usually serve for two calendar years: seven selected by the Security Council, including the five permanent members; seven elected by the General Assembly to redress geographical imbalance; seven elected by ECOSOC; five of the top 10 providers of assessed contributions to UN budgets and voluntary contributions to UN funds, programmes and agencies; and five of the top 10 providers of military personnel and civilian police to UN missions.

Organizational Committee members for 2025 (31)

Selected by the Security Council

Algeria	Panama	UK
China	Russian Federation	USA
France		

continued next page

Elected by the General Assembly

Brazil
Cambodia
Egypt
Morocco
Poland
Uganda
Uruguay

Elected by ECOSOC

Australia
Colombia
Kenya
Netherlands
ROK
Slovenia
South Africa

Top providers of assessed and voluntary contributions

Canada
Germany
Japan
Norway
Sweden

Top providers of military personnel and civilian police

Bangladesh
India
Nepal
Pakistan
Rwanda

Office holders for 2025

Chair
Germany

Vice-Chairs
Brazil
Japan
Morocco
Poland

Configuration Chairs
Brazil: for Guinea-Bissau
Morocco: for the Central African Republic
Sweden: for Liberia

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNALS

United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT)

Arusha Branch
Haki Road, Plot No. 486 Block A
Lakilaki Area, Arumeru District
PO Box 6016, Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania
Telephone: +255 27 256 5791
Email: mict-registryarusha@un.org

The Hague Branch
Churchillplein 1
2517 JW The Hague
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 70 512 5232
Email: mict-registrythehague@un.org

Website: www.irmct.org/en
President: Graciela Susana Gatti Santana, Uruguay (appointed by the UN Secretary-General effective July 2022)
Prosecutor: Serge Brammertz, Belgium (appointed by the Security Council in February 2016 (SC res. 2269); most recently reappointed in June 2024 (SC res. 2740))
Registrar: Abubacarr M Tambadou, Gambia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2020; most recently reappointed in June 2024)

Purpose

The Mechanism was established in 2010 to carry out the residual tasks of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. It continues both tribunals' jurisdiction, rights, obligations and essential functions. The Mechanism was established by SC res. 1966 (2010), adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The same resolution adopted the Mechanism's Statute. The Security Council determined that the Mechanism would continue to operate until it decided otherwise, but that progress would be reviewed in 2016 and every two years after that.

Structure

The Mechanism has two branches:

- A branch for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which began operations on 1 July 2012 in Arusha, UR of Tanzania, gradually assuming the responsibilities of the ICTR until that tribunal closed on 31 December 2015
- A branch for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which began operations on 1 July 2013 in The Hague, Netherlands, gradually assuming the responsibilities of the ICTY until that tribunal closed on 31 December 2017.

The Mechanism maintains the legacy websites of the ICTR and ICTY as part of its mission to preserve and promote the legacy of the UN International Criminal Tribunals.

The Mechanism consists of three organs:

- The Chambers, comprising a Trial Chamber for each branch and an Appeals Chamber common to both
- The Office of the Prosecutor – in charge of investigations and prosecutions
- The Registry – to provide judicial, legal and administrative services for the Mechanism, including the Chambers and the Prosecutor.

The Mechanism has a roster of 25 independent judges elected by the General Assembly from a list submitted by the Security Council. They are initially selected from a list of nominees submitted by UN Member States and non-member states maintaining permanent observer missions at UN Headquarters. Judges are elected for four-year terms and may be reappointed by the Secretary-General. No more than two judges may be nationals of the same state. The first group of 25 judges was elected on 20 December 2011.

Judges (on the roster as at July 2025)

Graciela Susana Gatti Santana, Uruguay (President)
Jean-Claude Antonetti, France
Joseph E Chiondo Masanche, UR of Tanzania
William H Sekule, UR of Tanzania
Lee G Muthoga, Kenya
Carmel A Agius, Malta
Alphons M M Orie, Netherlands
Burton Hall, Bahamas
Florence Rita Arrey, Cameroon
Vagn Prüsse Joensen, Denmark
Liu Daqun, China
Prisca Matimba Nyambe, Zambia
Aminatta Lois Runeni N'gum, Gambia
Seon Ki Park, ROK
José Ricardo de Prada Solaesa, Spain
Ivo Nelson de Caires Batista Rosa, Portugal
Seymour Panton, Jamaica
Yusuf Aksar, Türkiye
Mustapha El Baaj, Morocco
Claudia Hoefer, Germany
Iain Bonomy, UK
Fatimata Sanou Touré, Burkina Faso
Margaret deGuzman, USA
René José Andriatianarivelo, Madagascar[1]
One vacancy as at 1 July 2025[2]

Notes

1 Appointed on 20 February 2024, to complete the term of Judge Mahandrisoa Edmond Randrianirina, who resigned on 4 October 2023.

2 Judge Lydia Mugambe, Uganda, resigned on 5 May 2025.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

UN Command in Korea

UNC Headquarters, Bldg #12412
APO AP 96271–5237
US Army Garrison Humphreys
Republic of Korea

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsCommand/
X: @UN_Command
Instagram: @UN_Command

Website: www.unc.mil
Commander: General Xavier T Brunson, US Army (since 20 December 2024)

The UN Command (UNC) is the international coalition, under United States command, that provided forces to assist the Republic of Korea (ROK) during the Korean War and continues to maintain the Armistice Agreement of 27 July 1953 (adopted by GA res. 711 (VII) (1953)). Established in July 1950 pursuant to SC resolutions 83 (1950) and 84 (1950), UNC today continues to demonstrate the international community's long-standing commitment to securing a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The UNC's composition is not restricted or limited, except that the United States designates the Commander. The UN Member States that have provided support to the UNC have changed over the years. Currently, 18 countries are actively affiliated with the UNC, and Japan hosts seven bases designated for UNC usage.

UNC Member States actively participate in Armistice maintenance activities, primarily through the UN Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC), a discrete and subordinate structure within UNC Headquarters. The UNCMAC Secretariat conducts routine "advise and assist" visits and Armistice education presentations to ROK units and inspections of areas within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) including the 121 UNC guard and observation posts in the DMZ, the Han River Estuary (HRE) and on the Northwest Islands to ensure Armistice Agreement compliance. Annually, UNCMAC conducts an average of 50 inspections of DMZ sites to ensure adherence to the Armistice. UNCMAC operates an Armistice education programme to ensure compliance through educating front-line forces on the Armistice Agreement and the Armistice rules of engagement. In addition, liaison officers from UNC Member States join UNCMAC staff on special investigation teams to investigate incidents that occur in the DMZ, the HRE and the sea and air areas of UNC responsibility. The Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), of which Switzerland and Sweden are current members, is an independent and impartial body that performs and develops Armistice Agreement activities in the interest of all parties involved.

Several UNC Member States also contribute to UNC's coalition activities through permanent party staffing, exercise participation and working group attendance. Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States have several officers serving on the UNC Headquarters staff and in the UNC Honor Guard on the Korean Peninsula and in UNC-Rear Headquarters in Japan.

UNC Member States

Australia
Belgium
Canada
Colombia
Denmark
France
Germany
Greece
Italy
Netherlands
New Zealand
Norway
Philippines
South Africa
Thailand
Türkiye
UK
USA

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

Website: www.un.org/ecosoc/en

CHARTER PROVISIONS

The UN is charged by its Charter with promoting in the economic and social fields:

- Higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development
- Solutions to international economic, social, health and related problems, and international cultural and educational cooperation
- Universal respect for, and observance of, rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Responsibility for discharging these functions is vested in the General Assembly and, under its authority, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The Charter provisions relating to ECOSOC are contained in Chapter IX (Articles 55–60), which sets forth the objectives and functions of the UN in the sphere of international economic and social cooperation, and Chapter X (Articles 61–72), which defines the composition, functions and powers, and voting and procedure of the Council. Other provisions are to be found in Articles 1, 2, 7, 15, 17, 18, 91, 96, 98 and 101.

MEMBERSHIP

ECOSOC has 54 members. It originally had 18 members, increasing to 27 on 31 August 1965 following amendment to Article 61 of the UN Charter in accordance with GA res. 1991B (XVIII) (1963); then to 54 on 12 October 1973 following further amendment to Article 61 in accordance with GA res. 2847 (XXVI) (1971). The pattern for geographical distribution of seats was established in GA res. 2847: 14 members from African states, 11 from Asia–Pacific states, six from Eastern European states, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean states, and 13 from Western European and Other states. Eighteen members of ECOSOC are elected each year by the General Assembly. Members generally serve three-year terms, ending on 31 December.

Members (54)*

Countries that have never served on the Council are not listed. The Western European and Other states group (WEOG) has its own rotation scheme. Terms in the list reflect the rotation scheme as at 1 July 2025.

	Previous	Current
African states (14 seats)		
Algeria	1964–66 73–81 83–85 90–92 1998–2000 07–09 16–18	2025–27
Angola	1992–94 2000–02 06–08 19–21	
Benin	1966–67 82–84 92–94 2000–08 13–15 17–22	
Botswana	1983–85 91–93 2014–16 20–22	2023–25
Burkina Faso	1968–70 77–79 90–92 2000–02 12–17	
Burundi	1972–74 81–83 2002–04	
Cabo Verde	1997–99 2007–09	2023–25
Cameroon	1966–67 78–83 89–91 2000–02 08–13 17–19	2023–25
Central African Republic	1978–80 96–98	
Chad	1968–70 2005–07 17–19	
Comoros	1998–2000 10–12	

Congo	1968–70 74–76 83–85 95–97 1999–2001 03–05 08–10 14–16 20–22	
Côte d'Ivoire	1974–76 95–97 2009–11 22–24	2025–27
DR Congo	1971–77 80–82 84–95 1999–2001 05–07 14–16	
Djibouti	1983–88 97–99	2025–27
Egypt	1952–57 74–76 86–88 94–96 2001–03 10–12 19–21	
Equatorial Guinea		2023–25
Eswatini	1982–84 92–94 2017–19 22–24	
Ethiopia	1961–63 74–77 80–82 92–94 2001–03 12–14 19–21	
Gabon	1965–67 75–77 86–88 93–98 2011–13 20–22	
Gambia	1997–99	
Ghana	1970–72 79–81 88–90 94–96 2002–04 10–12 15–20	
Guinea	1974–75 85–93 2005–07	
Guinea-Bissau	1999–2001 06–08 09–11	
Kenya	1970–72 74–77 81–83 89–91 2003–05 19–21	2024–26
Lesotho	1978–80 88–90 1998–2000 12–14	
Liberia	1974–76 82–84 88–90 2021–23	
Libya	1967–69 80–82 88–90 93–95 2002–04 12–14 21–23	
Madagascar	1971–73 92–94 2006–08 21–23	
Malawi	1980–82 2007–09 11–13 18–20	
Mali	1973–75 82–84 2019–21	
Mauritania	1977–79 2006–08 15–17	2024–26
Mauritius	1998–2000 04–06 09–11 13–15 22–24	
Morocco	1966–68 79–81 85–87 91–93 1999–2001 09–11 18–20	
Mozambique	1986–88 97–99 2003–05 08–10	
Namibia	2004–06 09–11	
Niger	1971–73 89–91 2008–10	
Nigeria	1976–78 80–82 85–87 93–95 2001–06 12–14 16–18 21–23	2024–26
Rwanda	1977–79 84–92 1999–2001 10–12 16–18	
Senegal	1962–64 74–75 79–81 85–87 94–96 2003–05 11–13	2024–26
Sierra Leone	1966–69 83–88 1998–2000	
Somalia	1977–79 84–89 91–93 2007–09 16–18	
South Africa	1995–97 2001–03 05–07 13–18	2025–27
Sudan	1958–60 69–71 77–79 81–83 87–89 95–97 2000–02 07–09 13–15 18–20	
Togo	1976–78 91–98 2014–16 18–20	
Tunisia	1970–72 76–78 82–84 89–91 96–98 2004–06 13–15 22–24	
Uganda	1973–78 84–86 95–97 2001–03 15–17	
UR of Tanzania	1966–69 78–80 94–96 2004–06 22–24	2025–27
Zambia	1974–76 79–81 89–91 97–99 2010–12	2024–26
Zimbabwe	1985–87 94–96 2002–04 15–17 21–23	

Asia–Pacific states (11 seats)

Afghanistan	1959–61 76–78 2016–18 22–24	
Bahrain	1990–92 2000–02	
Bangladesh	1976–78 81–83 85–87 92–94 96–98 2004–06 10–12 14–16 20–22	2025–27
Bhutan	1993–95 2002–04	
Cambodia	2019[1]	
China	1946–60 1972–2004 05–07 08–10 14–22	2023–25
Cyprus	1979–81	

Fiji	1974–75 81–83 2000–02
India	1946–47 53–55 62–64 66–70 74 78–83 85–90 1992–2000 02–04 05–07 09–11 12–20 22–24
Indonesia	1956–58 69–71 74–75 79–81 84–86 89–91 94–96 1999–2000 04–09 12–14 21–23
Iran	1950–52 66–68 74–79 87–92 2001–03 19–21
Iraq	1964–66 77–82 86–91 2007–09 10–12 16–18
Japan	1960–65 68–70 72–80 1982–2005 06–11 12–23 2024–26
Jordan	1961–63 74–76 80–82 89–91 96–98
Kazakhstan	2007–09 14–16 22–24
Kuwait	1967–69 92–94 2013–15
Kyrgyzstan	2013–15
Lao PDR	2023–25
Lebanon	1946–49 71–73 83–85 96–98 2016–18
Malaysia	1971–73 76–78 83–85 91–93 95–97 2003–05 08–10
Mongolia	1973–75 2010–12
Nepal	1980–82 2001–03 13–15 2024–26
Oman	1987–89 1998–2000 22–24
Pakistan	1954–59 65–67 69–71 74–77 79–84 86–88 90–92 94–96 1998–2003 05–07 08–13 15–17 19–21 2024–26
Papua New Guinea	1984–86
Philippines	1951–53 66–68 77–79 86–88 92–97 2007–09 10–12 18–20
Qatar	1982–84 2002–04 11–13 2023–25
ROK	1993–95 97–99 2003–06 08–10 14–22 2023–25
Saudi Arabia	1983–85 88–90 1999–2001 03–05 06–11 19–21 2025–27
Solomon Islands	2021–23
Sri Lanka	1970–72 84–89 93–95 97–99 2006–08 2025–27
Syrian AR	1977–79 86–88 91–93 1999–2001
Tajikistan	2017–18[1]
Thailand	1974–76 80–85 89–91 95–97 2005–07 20–22
Turkmenistan	2013–15 19–21
UAE	1978–80 2004–06 17–18[1]
Uzbekistan	2025–27
Viet Nam	1998–2000 16–18
Yemen	2019[1]

Eastern European states (6 seats)*[2]

Albania	2005–07 13–15
Armenia	2004–06 19–21 2025–27
Azerbaijan	2003–05 17–19 2025–27
Belarus	1947–49 81–83 86–88 1992–2000 07–09 12–14 18–20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2017[3]
Bulgaria	1959–61 68–70 75–77 80–85 87–92 94–96 1999–2001 12–13[4] 21–23
Croatia	2000–02 13–15 22–24
Czechia	1996–2001 06–08 16–18 22–24
Estonia	2009–11 15–17
Georgia	2001–03 14–16
Hungary	1971–73 78–80 2002–04 11[4]
Latvia	1997–99 2011–13 20–22
Lithuania	2005–07
Montenegro	2020–22
Poland	1948–53 57–62 72–74 77–79 81–89 1992–2000 04–06 08–10 2024–26

Republic of Moldova 2008–10 16–18
Romania 1965–67 74–76 78–80 82–87 90–98 2001–03 07–09 18–19[3]
Russian Federation 1947–2007 08–10 14–22
Serbia 2014–16
Slovakia 2010–12 2023–25
Slovenia 2023–25
Ukraine 1946 77–79 89–91 93–95 2002–04 10–12 19–21

Latin American and Caribbean states (10 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda 2014–16 2025–27
Argentina 1952–57 63–65 68–70 74–86 91–93 96–98 2001–03 10–12 15–17 21–23
Bahamas 1980–82 89–91 93–95 2010–12
Barbados 1979–81 2007–09
Belize 1987–89 2004–06 22–24
Bolivia 1972–74 76–78 87–89 1999–2001 07–09 13–15 21–23
Brazil 1948–50 56–58 60–62 70–87 1989–2003 05–07 08–10 12–17 19–21 2023–25
Chile 1946–47 58–60 64–66 72–74 80–82 91–99 2002–04 10–12 16–18 22–24
Colombia 1946 62–64 74–79 82–90 1992–2000 04–06 13–15 17–22 2023–25
Costa Rica 1958–60 84–86 94–96 2000–02 05–07 2023–25
Cuba 1946–47 52–54 76–78 88–90 93–95 1997–2008 12–14
Dominican Republic 1955–57 78–80 2012–14 2025–27
Ecuador 1954–56 64–66 79–81 83–85 90–92 2003–05 11–13 18–20
El Salvador 1961–63 97–99 2002–04 07–09 12–14 18–20
Guatemala 1967–69 74–75 2002–04 09–11 14–16 21–23
Guyana 1984–86 96–98 2006–08 16–18
Haiti 1971–73 85–87 2006–08 13–15 2024–26
Honduras 1999–2001 15–17
Jamaica 1969–71 74–79 86–88 90–92 95–97 2003–05 19–21
Mexico 1950–52 57–59 67–69 74–85 90–95 1997–2002 05–07 11–13 18–23 2025–27
Nicaragua 1981–83 89–91 96–98 2003–05 11–13 20–22
Panama 1966–68 86–88 2004–06 14–16 20–22
Paraguay 1994–96 2006–08 19–21 2024–26
Peru 1946–51 65–67 70–72 75–77 81–83 86–88 91–93 2001–03 09–11 16–18 22–24
Saint Kitts and Nevis 2009–11
Saint Lucia 1982–84 1998–2000 08–10
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2017–19
Suriname 1983–85 92–94 2000–02 2024–26
Trinidad and Tobago 1973–75 78–80 88–93 2015–17
Uruguay 1951–53 61–63 69–71 87–89 2008–10 18–20 2024–26
Venezuela 1947–49 53–55 59–61 66–68 74–90 94–96 1999–2001 09–11 17–19

Western European and Other states (13 seats)*

Andorra 2001–03 17–19
Australia 1948–50 53–55 62–64 74–76 80–82 86–88 92–97 2002–06 08–12 15–17 20–21 2025

Austria	1963–65 76–78 82–84 91–93 2000–02 06–08 13–14 15 21–22 2025–26
Belgium	1946 49–54 67–69 74–76 80–82 86–88 92–94 1998–2000 04–06 10–11 16–18 22–24
Canada	1946–48 50–52 56–58 65–67 74–77 1981–2001 04–09 10–14 18 19–21 22–24 2025–27
Denmark	1948–50 60–62 75–77 81–83 87–89 93–95 1999–2001 05–07 13–14 18–19 22–24
Finland	1957–59 72–74 78–80 84–86 90–92 96–98 2002–04 08–12 15–16 20–22 2025
France	1946–2005 06–11 12–23 2024–26
Germany	1974–2005 06–07 09–12 14–21 24
Greece	1946 56–58 66 70–72 76–78 82–84 88–90 94–96 2000 03–05 07–09 14–16 22–23
Iceland	1985–87 97–99 2005–07
Ireland	1968–70 79–81 88–90 94–96 2003–05 12–13 16–20
Israel	2022–23
Italy	1961–63 70–72 74–82 86–94 1998–2003 04–06 10–12 14–18 22–24 2025–27*
Liechtenstein	2008 09–10 23 2024–26*
Luxembourg	1964–66 83–85 95–97 2007–09 19–21
Malta	1978–80 2001–02 09–11 19–20
Netherlands	1947–48 55–60 73–75 77–79 83–85 89–91 95–97 2001–03 07–09 12–13 19–21 2025–27
New Zealand	1947–49 59–61 71–73 77–79 83–85 89–91 1998–2000 07–09 13–14 22–24
Norway	1946–47 54–56 69–71 75–77 81–83 87–89 93–95 1999–2001 08–11 17–21
Portugal	1976–78 82–84 88–90 94–96 2000–01 07–09 14–16 21–23
San Marino	2013–15
Spain	1959–61 73–75 79–81 85–87 91–93 97–99 2002–06 11–13 17–18 20 2024–26
Sweden	1951–53 66–68 74 78–80 84–86 90–92 96–98 2002–04 08–09 13 14–17 2023–25
Switzerland	2011–12 15–16 20–21 2025–27*
Türkiye	1947–49 53–55 67–69 74–75 79–81 85–87 91–93 97–99 2003–06 09–10 12–13 17–19 2024–25
UK	1947–2004 05–07 08–13 14–19 21–23 2024–26
USA	1946–2009 10–12 13–24

Notes

* On 4 June 2025, the General Assembly elected 18 members of ECOSOC, to hold three-year terms beginning 1 January 2026: Burundi, Chad, Mozambique and Sierra Leone (African states); China, India, Lebanon and Turkmenistan (Asia–Pacific states); Croatia, Russian Federation and Ukraine (Eastern European states); Ecuador, Peru and Saint Kitts and Nevis (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Australia, Finland, Norway and Türkiye (Western European and Other states). It also elected Germany to complete the term of Liechtenstein, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026, and USA to complete the term of Switzerland, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027. Italy will also relinquish its seat to Switzerland, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

1 Tajikistan and UAE served two-year terms for 2017–18 and were replaced by Cambodia and Yemen, respectively.

2 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on ECOSOC for the following periods: 1946, 1962–64, 1969–71, 1974–78, 1980–82, 1984–86 and 1988–92. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution. Czechoslovakia served on ECOSOC in 1946–47, 1950–52, 1954–56, 1963–68, 1974–77 and 1989–91.

3 Bosnia and Herzegovina served a one-year term in 2017 and was replaced by Romania.

4 Hungary had a one-year term in 2011 and was replaced by Bulgaria.

SESSIONS AND OFFICERS

Up to 2013, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held one substantive four-week session annually in July, alternating between New York and Geneva, and an organizational session of not more than four days in late January/early February. Pursuant to GA res. 68/1 of September 2013, ECOSOC shifted its work programme to a July–July cycle and organized its meetings into distinct segments. Following the adoption of GA res. 72/305 of 23 July 2018 and 75/290A of 25 June 2021, ECOSOC should organize its meetings and forums convened under the auspices of the Council into four main groups.

The first group comprises the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment. The second group includes the Development Cooperation Forum (held in odd years), the Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, the Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Development for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Youth Forum and related mandated meetings.

The third group includes the operational activities for development segment, the humanitarian affairs segment and the meeting on the transition from relief to development. The operational activities for development segment is to be held close to the annual sessions of the executive boards of the UN system funds and programmes. Through this segment, the Council provides overall coordination and guidance for operational development funds and programmes on a system-wide basis. A humanitarian affairs segment is held in May/June, through which the Council continues to contribute to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of UN humanitarian assistance and support and complement international efforts aimed at addressing humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, in order to promote an improved, coordinated response by the UN.

The fourth group includes the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Council, and the high-level segment of the Council. The high-level segment, held in July, continues to discharge the functions provided for in General Assembly resolutions 45/264 (1991), 48/162 (1993), 50/227 (1996), 61/16 (2006), 68/1 (2013), 72/305 (2018) and 75/290A (2021). In accordance with GA res. 70/299 (2016), the high-level segment of the Council is convened jointly with the three ministerial days of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (see entry later in this chapter), convened under the auspices of the Council.

The management segment is held in principle twice per cycle, focusing on the adoption of procedural decisions and the consideration of recommendations of subsidiary bodies, as well as the introduction of reports and consideration of draft proposals submitted under relevant items. Dedicated management meetings are also held to conduct elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC and related bodies, normally in the first half and last quarter of the year.

The Council holds the regular meetings of its substantive sessions in New York. The humanitarian affairs segment continues to alternate between New York (even years) and Geneva (odd years). ECOSOC decisions are taken by a simple majority of members present and voting. The Bureau is elected by ECOSOC at the beginning of each annual session in late July.

Bureau 2025 session (July 2024–July 2025) and 2026 session (July 2025–July 2026)

President 2025
Robert Rae, Canada

Vice-Presidents 2025
Maritza Chan Valverde, Costa Rica
Anatolio Ndong Mba, Equatorial Guinea
Krzysztof Szczerski, Poland
Lok Bahadur Thapa, Nepal

President 2026
Lok Bahadur Thapa, Nepal

Vice-Presidents 2026
Wellington Darío Bencosme Castaños, Dominican Republic
Amar Bendjamaa, Algeria
Héctor Gómez Hernández, Spain
Paruyr Hovhannisyan, Armenia

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF ECOSOC

FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Vienna International Centre
PO Box 50
A–1400 Vienna
Austria

Telephone: +43 1 260 60 4280
Email: unodc-sgb@un.org
X: @CND_tweets

Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/
Secretary: Jo Dedeyne-Amann, Belgium (since 2012)

Purpose

The CND was established in 1946 as the central UN policy-making body for addressing drug-related matters, assisting ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties (ECOSOC res. 9 (I)). The CND and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) are the governing bodies of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The CND is mandated to decide, on the basis of the medical and scientific assessment by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), to place narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals under international control, to change the level of control or to release substances from control. It monitors the world drug situation, develops strategies on international drug control and recommends measures to Member States and to UNODC to address and counter the world drug problem. It assists Member States in advancing implementation of the international drug control conventions, the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (see GA res. 64/182), the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the CND of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and the outcome document of the 30th special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016 (GA res. S-30/1), in line with the commitment made by Member States in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, to focus beyond 2019 on the practical implementation of the existing policy documents. In 1991, the General Assembly expanded the mandates of the CND to enable it to function as the governing body of UNODC and to approve the budget for the Fund of the UN International Drug Control Programme, which accounts for most of the resources available to the UN for drug control. In 2024, the Commission conducted the mid-term review on the implementation of all international drug policy commitments, an important milestone set forth in the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, and adopted the High-level declaration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the 2024 mid-term review.

Meetings

Members usually meet in Vienna in March, with a shorter reconvened session in the second half of the year to consider budgetary matters (ECOSOC decision 2009/251). Since 2011, the CND and CCPCJ have held joint meetings during their annual reconvened sessions (ECOSOC decision 2011/259).

Membership

ECOSOC resolution 1991/49 enlarged the membership of the Commission from 40 to 53 members, with distribution of seats among the regional groups as shown in the following list of members. One seat rotates between Asia–Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean states every four years.

Elections are held at two-year intervals, usually in April. Members serve four-year terms, expiring on 31 December. In accordance with Council resolutions 845 (XXXII) and 1147 (XLI), members

are elected (a) from among UN Member States and members of the specialized agencies and the Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries that are important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries that are important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs, and of countries in which drug addiction or illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constitutes an important problem; and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

The Bureau is composed of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur. The Commission elects its Bureau for the following session at the end of its reconvened session.

Members (53)*

	Previous	Current
African states (11 seats)		
Algeria	1978–81 84–87 96–99 2004–07 12–15 18–21	2022–25
Angola	2000–03 14–17 20–23	
Benin	2000–03 14–17	
Botswana	2008–11	
Burkina Faso	2002–05 18–21	
Burundi		2024–27
Cameroon	2004–19	
Côte d'Ivoire	1984–85 88–91 1994–2001 10–13 18–21	2022–25
DR Congo	1982–85 2004–19	
Egypt	1946–77 1988–2003 12–15 20–23	
Eswatini	2000–03 10–13	
Ethiopia	2008–11	
Gabon	1992–95	
Gambia	1990–93 2002–05	
Ghana	1964–71 1990–2001 10–13	2022–25
Guinea	1994–97	
Kenya	1973–79 2016–23	2024–27
Lesotho	1992–95	
Liberia	1994–97	
Libya	1990–93 2000–03 20–23	
Madagascar	1962 76–95 2004–07	
Malawi	1980–83	
Mali	1986–89	
Mauritania	2016–19	
Mauritius	1997–2001	
Morocco	1962–65 67–77 84–87 92–99 2008–11 20–23	2024–27
Mozambique	2000–03	
Namibia	2006–09 12–15	
Niger	2006–09	
Nigeria	1966–68 72–75 82–89 92–99 2002–09 14–17 20–23	2024–27
Senegal	1982–93 2006–09	
Sierra Leone	1997–2001 10–13	
South Africa	1996–99 2002–05 16–23	2024–27
Sudan	1996–2011 16–19	
Togo	1970–81 2014–21	
Tunisia	1978–81 92–99	2022–25
Uganda	2004–11 16–19	
UR of Tanzania	2012–15	2024–27
Zambia	1986–89 2004–07 12–15	
Zimbabwe	2012–15	2024–27

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Asia–Pacific states (11/12 seats, one rotating)

Afghanistan	2012–15 18–21	
Bahrain	2020–23	
Bangladesh		2022–25
China	1946–69 1986–2005 08–23	2024–27
India	1946–85 1988–2007 10–21	2024–27
Indonesia	1973–81 86–93 96–99 2002–05 14–17	2024–27
Iran	1946–72 74–81 84–87 1992–2019	2022–25
Iraq	2018–21	
Japan	1962–2009 12–23	2024–27
Kazakhstan	2000–03 08–11 14–17 20–23	
Kyrgyzstan	2000–03 18–21	
Lao PDR	1997–2001 04–07 10–13	
Lebanon	1970–73 88–91 1994–2001 04–07	
Malaysia	1982–93 96–99 2004–07	
Myanmar	2004–07 10–13	
Nepal	2020–23	
Pakistan	1969–99 2002–05 08–23	
Philippines	1992–95 2000–03	
Qatar	2016–19	2024–27
ROK	1963–68 82–85 1992–2003 06–09 12–19	2022–25
Saudi Arabia	2006–13	2022–25
Singapore		2024–27
Sri Lanka	1984–87 94–97	
Syrian AR	1992–99	
Tajikistan	2006–09 14–17	
Thailand	1973–2023	2024–27
Turkmenistan	2012–15 20–23	
UAE	2004–11	
Yemen	2008–11	

Eastern European states (6 seats)[1]

Armenia		2024–27
Belarus	2002–05 10–13 16–19	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2004–07	
Bulgaria	1982–93 96–99	
Croatia	2004–07 14–21	
Czechia	1993–2003 08–11 14–21	
Hungary	1957–93 2004–07 12–23	2024–27
Lithuania	2008–11	2022–25
North Macedonia	2000–03	
Poland	1946–56 62–63 88–99 2006–09 12–15 20–23	2024–27
Republic of Moldova	2008–11	
Romania	1973–77 1994–2001 10–13	
Russian Federation	1946–2021	2022–25
Slovakia	2000–03 16–19	
Slovenia		2022–25
Ukraine	1994–2009 12–15 20–23	

Latin American and Caribbean states (10/11 seats, one rotating)

Argentina	1965–67 72–89 2000–11 16–19	2024–27
Bahamas	1982–85 90–97	
Bolivia	1988–2003 06–17	2022–25
Brazil	1962–64 67–81 84–91 1996–2007 10–21	2022–25
Chile	1973–77 92–95 1997–2001 04–07 10–13 18–21	2024–27
Colombia	1976–87 1990–2021	2022–25
Cuba	1996–2011 14–21	
Dominican Republic	1968–71	2024–27

Ecuador	1986–93 1996–2003 16–23	
El Salvador	2008–11 16–23	
Guatemala	2004–07 12–19	2024–27
Jamaica	1967–77 92–99 2002–09 20–23	
Mexico	1946–2009 12–23	2024–27
Nicaragua	1992–95 2002–05	
Panama	1978–85	
Paraguay	1994–97	
Peru	1946–75 84–95 2000–23	2024–27
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2012–15	
Suriname	2012–15	
Trinidad and Tobago	2008–11	2022–25
Uruguay	1992–95 1997–2001 08–23	2024–27
Venezuela	1986–89 1992–2003 08–11	

Western European and Other states (14 seats)

Australia	1973–2021	2022–25
Austria	1957–59 84–85 2000–23	2024–27
Belgium	1978–97 2006–21	2022–25
Canada	1946–79 1984–2003 06–21	2022–25
Denmark	1988–91 2000–03 12–15	
Finland	1984–87 94–97 2008–11	2024–27
France	1946–2007 10–21	2022–25
Germany	1963–2023	
Greece	1954–56 84–87 1996–2003	
Israel	2004–11 12–19	
Italy	1976–2023	2024–27
Malta		2024–27
Netherlands	1946–53 60–62 84–99 2002–05 08–23	2024–27
Norway	1980–83 92–95 2004–07 16–19	
Portugal	1996–2003	2024–27
Spain	1980–83 1986–2005 08–23	2024–27
Sweden	1969–79 90–93 96–99 2004–07 20–23	
Switzerland	1961–75 88–95 1997–2001 04–11 18–21	2022–25
Türkiye	1946–89 92–95 1997–2009 12–23	
UK	1946–2017 20–23	2024–27
USA	1946–2023	2024–27

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 20 members to serve a four-year term from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mauritania (African states); Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and UAE (Asia–Pacific states); Lithuania, Slovenia and Ukraine (Eastern European states); Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras and Trinidad and Tobago (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Australia, Belgium, France, Germany and Switzerland (Western European and Other states).

1 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the CND from 1946 to 1992. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the states created following its dissolution. Czechoslovakia served on the CND in 1992.

Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Subsidiary_Bodies/Subcommission/Subcommission_Index.html

The Subcommission was established in 1973 to serve as a consultative body that would provide the Commission with a regional perspective on dealing with illicit drug activity in the Near and Middle East. The Subcommission's functions are to facilitate cooperation and coordination in regional activities directed against illicit drug traffic and to identify priority issues

in the area and formulate recommendations to the Commission for addressing these issues. The Subcommission usually meets annually for four days. It reports directly to the Commission.

The Subcommission was established as a subsidiary body of the Commission by ECOSOC res. 1776 (LIV) (1973) and CND res. 6 (XXV) (1973). Its meetings and members are listed on the website.

Regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA)

Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Subsidiary_Bodies/Subsidiary-Bodies_Index.html

The Commission has four additional regional subsidiary bodies known as the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA):

- Asia and the Pacific (HONLAP), established by ECOSOC res. 1845 (LVI) (1974)
- Africa (HONLAF), established by ECOSOC res. 1985/11
- Latin America and the Caribbean (HONLAC), established by ECOSOC res. 1987/34
- Europe (HONEUR), established by ECOSOC res. 1990/30.

ECOSOC established the HONLEA as subsidiary bodies of the Commission to further cooperation in drug law enforcement activities at the regional level. Meetings usually take place annually to identify salient policy and enforcement issues in their regions, establish working groups to analyse the issues, and then bring their reports and recommendations to the attention of the Commission.

Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

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New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3209
Email: population@un.org

Website: www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/CPD
Director, Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division: John R Wilmoth, USA

Purpose

CPD is the sole intergovernmental body tasked with integrated consideration of population and development issues. In its terms of reference, endorsed in ECOSOC res. 1995/55, the Commission is mandated to arrange for studies on population and development issues, trends and policies and to advise on population assistance, upon request, to developing countries. The Commission is also charged with monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) at national, regional and international levels and to advise ECOSOC on these issues. ECOSOC res. 2016/25 also requested the Commission to contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Evolution

The Commission was originally named the Population Commission, which was established by ECOSOC res. 3 (III) (1946) and tasked with studying and advising ECOSOC on population changes, including migration, and their effect on economic and social conditions. It was renamed following the International Conference on Population and Development (GA res. 49/128 (1994)).

GA res. 49/128 also charged the Commission with monitoring and assessing implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. In line with its new mandate, new terms of reference for the Commission were endorsed by ECOSOC res. 1995/55. The CPD's current methods of work were the object of ECOSOC decision 2022/332 and ECOSOC res. 2016/25.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs acts as the CPD Secretariat. The Secretary, provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM), advises the Commission on procedural matters. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) participates in meetings of the CPD Bureau as an observer.

Meetings

The Commission meets annually in New York. Most recently, its 58th session took place from 7 to 11 April 2025.

Membership

Originally 12, membership has increased several times and now stands at 47 (GA res. 50/124 (1995)). Members are elected by ECOSOC for four-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution (as noted in the list below). Government representatives who serve on the Commission are expected to have the relevant background in population and development. ECOSOC decided (2005/213) members' terms of office should run for four regular sessions of the Commission, beginning after the conclusion of a regular session and ending at the conclusion of the next regular session. The Commission elects a bureau at the start of each regular session. The Bureau usually consists of a chair and four vice-chairs.

Members (47)*

	Previous	Current
African states (12 seats)*		
Algeria	1996–98 2000–03 11–15	
Angola	2010–14	
Benin	2007–11 14–18	
Botswana	1990–93 2002–06 21–25	
Burkina Faso	1969–72 18–22	
Burundi	1986–89 1999–2002 15–19	2024–28
Cameroon	1966–69 85–88 1993–2009 17–21	
Central African Republic	1968–71	
Chad	2013–17	2022–26
Congo	1996–98	
Comoros	2005–09 21–25	
Côte d'Ivoire	1997–2000 09–13 18–22	
DR Congo	1977–84 2003–07 09–13 19–23	
Egypt	1968–75 78–81 84–87 89–92 96–99 2001–04 12–16	
Equatorial Guinea	2007–11	
Ethiopia	1997–2000 21–25	
Gabon	1970–73 2011–15	
Gambia	2002–10	2023–27
Ghana	1962–79 2001–04 10–14	
Guinea	1999–2002	
Kenya	1969–72 1996–2003 04–12	2022–26
Lesotho	1996–97	
Liberia	2014–18	
Libya	2004–08 20–24	
Madagascar	1992–95 2004–08 13–21	
Malawi	1967–68 78–81 86–89 1998–2001 10–14	2025–29
Mali	2017–21	
Mauritania	1974–77 2003–07 18–22	2022–26
Mauritius	1985–88	

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Morocco	1972–75 80–83 2005–09 16–20 2022–26
Niger	1967 73–76 1998–2001
Nigeria	1967–68 80–91 1996–2006 14–17 2023–27
Rwanda	1967–69 73–84 88–95 2009–13
Senegal	2010–14
Sierra Leone	1976–83 2007–10 15–19
Somalia	2020–24
South Africa	1998–2001 07–10 14–18
Sudan	1982–85 92–99 2016–20
Togo	1984–91 2019–23
Tunisia	1964–67 70–77 94–97 2008–12
Uganda	1976–79 89–92 96 2000–03 08–20
UR of Tanzania	1993–96 2012–16
Zambia	1982–85 90–93 96–97 2002–10 14–18 20–24

Asia–Pacific states (11 seats)*

Bangladesh	1989–2022
China	1947–67 1982–2006 07–22 2022–26
India	1965–72 74–81 84–87 1994–2006 07–14 18–25
Indonesia	1952–54 68–69 76–83 96–99 2001–13 2022–26
Iran	1953–55 70–73 86–93 1996–2023 2023–27
Iraq	1988–91 2015–17
Japan	1958–85 1988–2016 17–25 2025–29
Kazakhstan	2008–12
Lebanon	2002–06 07–10 20–24 2024–28
Malaysia	1984–87 1997–2009 10–18 19–23
Mongolia	2014–18
Nepal	1996 2018–22
Oman	2007–10 14–17
Pakistan	1967–71 92–96 2008 09–13 14–18 2022–26
Philippines	1967–69 72–79 1996–2001 03–07 10–14 15–19 21–25 2025–29
Qatar	2016–20
ROK	1996–2001
Saudi Arabia	2022–26
Sri Lanka	1961–64 80–83 2007–11
Syria	1950–52 54–56 62–65 96–98
Tajikistan	2023–27
Thailand	1973–88 1997–2000 02–06
Turkmenistan	2011–15 16–24 2024–28
Vanuatu	2018–22
Yemen	1999–2002

Eastern European states (5 seats)[1]

Albania	2025–26
Armenia	2004–08
Belarus	2000–03 09–13 15–23 2024–28
Bulgaria	1984–87 96–99 2005–09 18–22
Croatia	1999–2002 08–12
Georgia	2011–15
Hungary	1977–84 1993–2000 03–07 10–14
Lithuania	2001–04
North Macedonia[1]	1996–98
Poland	1988–95 2002–06 07–11
Republic of Moldova	2012–20 2021–25
Romania	1973–76 2013–21

Russian Federation	1947–2006 07–22	2022–26
Serbia	2014–18	2023–27
Ukraine	1947–83 85–92 1996–2001 07–10 20–24	

Latin American and Caribbean states (9 seats)

Argentina	1954–60 2014–22	2022–26
Barbados	1970–73 78–81	
Bolivia	1982–85 88–91 2003–07 15–19	
Brazil	1947–60 69–80 85–92 1996–2003 05–21	
Chile	1967–68 1999–2002 16–20	
Colombia	1985–96 2008–12 18–22	2025–29
Costa Rica	1954–57 73–76 84–87 1999–2000 21–25	
Cuba	1986–89 96 2009–13 17–25	
Dominican Republic	1977–80 2014–18 20–24	
Ecuador	1967–69 74–77 80–83 2011–15	
El Salvador	1958–65 1996–2001 03–07 11–15 19–23	
Grenada	2007–11	
Guatemala	2010–14	
Guyana	2002–09	
Haiti	1970–73 1999–2002 05–08 09–13 18–22	2025–29
Honduras	1981–84 92–95 2007–11	2023–26
Jamaica	1967–71 1994–2006 07–14 15–23	2024–28
Mexico	1961–64 76–79 1982–2006 07–10 13–25	2025–29
Nicaragua	1993–96 2002–06	
Panama	1965–68 74–81 90–93 1997–2000	2023–27
Paraguay	1999–2000	
Peru	1966–69 72–75 81–84 96–98 2001–09 14–18	2022–26
Saint Lucia	2010–14	
Uruguay	1961–64 2007–10 13–17	2023–27
Venezuela	1969–72 96–97	

Western European and Other states (10 seats)

Australia	1947–49 52–53 65–68 2021–25	2025–29
Austria	1965–68 2001–04	
Belgium	1951–64 1989–2025	2025–29
Canada	1947–49 54–60 1993–2000 05–09 17–24	2025–29
Denmark	1969–76 2013–25	
Finland	1976–83 96 2008–12 16–20	2024–28
France	1947–2008 17–21	
Germany	1985–2013 14–22	2025–29
Greece	1962–64 81–84	
Ireland	2002–06	
Israel	1956–59 2009–13 15–23	2023–27
Italy	1960–63 96–97 1999–2002	
Luxembourg	2003–07 10–14 17–21	2024–28
Malta	1996–98	
Netherlands	1947–50 65–68 73–88 1992–2012 13–17 18–22	2023–27
New Zealand	1969–72	
Norway	1950–61 77–84 2002–05 12–16	
Portugal	2011–15	2022–26
Spain	1969–72 77–80 2007–11 12–16	
Sweden	1950–55 64–75 84–91 1998–2001 05–10	
Switzerland	2005–17	
Türkiye	1973–76 85–92 1997–2004 20–24	
UK	1947–2001 07–18 21–25	
USA	1947–2006 07–22	2022–26

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Bureau (58th session, 2025)[2]

Chair
Catharina Lasseur, Netherlands

Vice-Chairs
Norma Abi Karam, Lebanon
Josélyne Kwishaka, Burundi
Galina Nipomici, Republic of Moldova
Stefany Romero Veiga, Uruguay

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 13 members for four-year terms beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's 60th session in 2026 and expiring at the close of its 63rd session in 2030: Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal and UR of Tanzania (African states); China, Malaysia and Mongolia (Asia–Pacific states); Russian Federation (Eastern European states); Bolivia and Cuba (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Ireland, Norway and UK (Western European and Other states). On 10 June 2025, ECOSOC elected India (Asia–Pacific states) for the same term. It postponed the election of two members for the same term. As at 1 July 2025, there were five vacancies: four from the African states group, two for the term expiring at the close of the 61st session in 2028 and two for the term expiring at the close of the 62nd session in 2029; and one from the Asia–Pacific states group, for the term expiring at the close of the 62nd session in 2029. Terms shown in the list that appear for more than the usual four years are due to the ECOSOC decision 2005/213 and rule 15 of the rules of the functional commissions of the Council, which request the Commission to hold the first meeting of the next session immediately after the closure of the previous session for the sole purpose of electing a new chair and other members of the Bureau. Terms shorter than four years reflect elections to fill vacancies.

1 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Commission in 1947–53 and 65–68. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution.

2 On 11 April 2025, the Commission elected Zéphyrin Maniratanga, Burundi, as Chair of its 60th session, and Arb Kapisyzi, Albania, Stéphanie Toschi, Luxembourg, and Sasha-Kay Kayann Watson, Jamaica, as Vice-Chairs. It deferred the election of the remaining Vice-Chair, from the Asia–Pacific states group, to a later date.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

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8–14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
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Fax: +41 22 917 0052
Email: cstd@un.org

Website: https://unctad.org/topic/commission-on-science-and-technology-for-development
UNCTAD Secretary-General: Rebeca Grynspan, Costa Rica (appointed in July 2017 for a four-year term from September 2021 to August 2025)

Purpose

The Commission provides the General Assembly and ECOSOC with high-level advice on relevant issues through analysis and policy recommendations or options in order to enable those organs to guide the future work of the UN, develop common policies and agree on appropriate actions. It first met in 1993.

The Commission acts as a forum for:

- Examining science and technology questions and their implications for development
- Advancing understanding on science and technology policies, particularly in respect of developing countries
- Formulating recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the UN system.

Evolution

The Commission was established by ECOSOC decision 1992/218 in accordance with GA res. 46/235 (1992) on the restructuring and revitalization of the UN in the economic, social and related fields. It replaced the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development.

ECOSOC res. 1992/62 reaffirmed the Commission's mandate as set forth in ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions, including GA resolutions 34/218 (1979), 41/183 (1986), 42/192 (1987), 44/14 (1989) and 46/235 (1992). ECOSOC res. 1998/46 decided the Commission should work more closely with the Commission on Sustainable Development and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). UNCTAD serves as the Secretariat for the Commission. ECOSOC res. 2006/46 gave the Commission the additional mandate for the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

Meetings

The Commission usually meets in Geneva for a week in March/April. ECOSOC res. 2002/37 requested the Commission meet annually, starting from the sixth session held in May 2003.

Membership

ECOSOC res. 2006/46 increased the Commission's membership from 33 to 43. Members are elected by ECOSOC based on equitable geographical distribution (as noted in the following list). Terms are four years, ending 31 December of the year shown. The Commission elects a bureau for the next session at each regular session. The Bureau consists of a chair and four vice-chairs.

Members (43)

	Previous	Current
African states (11 seats)		
Algeria		2023–26
Angola	2015–18	
Botswana	2019–22	2023–26
Burkina Faso	2017–20	2025–28
Burundi	2021–24	
Cameroon	2013–24	2025–28
Central African Republic	2013–16	
Côte d'Ivoire	2015–18	
Djibouti		2023–26
DR Congo	2009–12 17–20	2025–28
Egypt	2019–22	2023–26
Equatorial Guinea	2009–12	
Ethiopia	2019–22	
Gambia	2021–24	2025–28
Ghana	2009–12	
Guinea	2021–24	
Kenya	2015–22	
Lesotho	2011–14	
Liberia	2013–16 19–22	
Madagascar	2019–22	
Mali	2009–12	
Mauritania	2015–18	
Mauritius	2011–18	
Nigeria	2013–20	
Rwanda	2011–14	2023–26
South Africa	2009–12 17–24	
Togo	2011–14	
Tunisia	2011–14	
Uganda	2015–18	
UR of Tanzania	2011–14	2023–26
Zambia	2013–16	2025–28

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Asia–Pacific states (9 seats)

China	2011–22	2023–26
India	2011–18	2023–26
Indonesia		2025–28
Iran	2011–22	2025–28
Japan	2013–24	2025–28
Jordan	2009–12	
Kazakhstan	2017–20	
Nepal	2019–22	
Oman	2009–12 13–22	2023–26
Pakistan	2009–12 15–18	
Philippines	2011–14 21–24	2025–28
Saudi Arabia	2011–14 17–24	
Sri Lanka	2009–12 13–16	
Tajikistan		2023–26
Thailand	2015–22	
Turkmenistan	2014–16 17–24	
Uzbekistan		2023–26

Eastern European states (5 seats)

Belarus	2021–24	
Bulgaria	2011–18	
Estonia		2025–28
Hungary	2011–22	2023–26
Latvia	2011–22	2023–26
Poland	2015–18	2025–28
Romania	2019–22	2023–26
Russian Federation	2009–24	
Serbia	2019–20	
Slovakia	2009–12	

Latin American and Caribbean states (8 seats)

Belize		2023–26
Bolivia	2015–18	
Brazil	2009–24	2025–28
Chile	2009–20	
Colombia		2023–26
Costa Rica	2009–16	
Cuba	2011–22	2023–26
Dominican Republic	2011–22	
Ecuador	2019–22	2023–26
El Salvador	2011–14 17–20	
Guatemala	2021–24	2025–28
Jamaica	2009–12	
Mexico	2013–20	
Panama	2019–22	
Paraguay	2021–24	2025–28
Peru	2011–18 21–24	2025–28

Western European and Other states (10 seats)

Austria	2009–24	2025–28
Belgium	2019–22	
Canada	2015–22	2023–26
Finland	2009–12 13–16 18–24	2025–28
France	2011–14	2023–26
Germany	2013–20	2025–28
Israel	2009–12 21–24	
Malta	2011–14	
Portugal	2009–24	2025–28

Sweden	2011–18	
Switzerland	2009–24	2025–28
Türkiye	2011–22	2023–26
UK	2015–22	2023–26
USA	2011–22	2023–26

Bureau (elected in 2024 for the 28th session, 2025)*

Chair
Muhammadou M O Kah, Gambia

Vice-Chairs
Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, Portugal
Ana Cecilia Gervasi, Peru
Leah J Buendia, Philippines
Peter Major, Hungary

Note

* On 11 April 2025, the Commission elected Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Brazil, Muhammadou M O Kah, Gambia, Isabelle Lois, Switzerland, and Peter Major, Hungary, as Vice-Chairs of its 29th session. It postponed the election of a Chair from the Asia–Pacific states group until the start of that session.

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Website: https://hlpf.un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SustDev/
X: @SustDev

Purpose

The Forum was created at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 to build on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which it replaced. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the Forum has been mandated to have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, ECOSOC and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates.

The Forum provides political leadership and oversight over the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level. This includes facilitating sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, providing guidance and recommendations for follow-up, ensuring the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and addressing new and emerging issues. It promotes system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies.

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs acts as the substantive secretariat to the Forum, through its Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development. The General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) provides the Secretary of the Forum. The format and organizational aspects of the Forum are contained in GA res. 67/290 (2013). The follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level and the role of the Forum are further elaborated in GA resolutions 70/299 (2016), 74/298 (2020), 75/290B (2021) and most recently 78/285 (2024), which outlines themes and focuses for 2025–27.

Evolution

The CSD was established by the General Assembly in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit (ECOSOC res. 1993/207 in accordance with GA res. 47/191 (1992)). UN Member States agreed at Rio+20 to establish the Forum to replace the CSD.

Meetings

The Forum meets for two days every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly, where the outcome is a negotiated political declaration, and every year for eight days under the auspices of ECOSOC, including a three-day ministerial segment during the high-level segment of ECOSOC, where the outcome is a negotiated ministerial declaration.

The Forum held its inaugural meeting in September 2013 under the auspices of the General Assembly. It has met annually in July, from 2014 onwards, under the auspices of ECOSOC. It met under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2019 and 2023. From 2016, the voluntary national reviews replaced national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews of ECOSOC. The 2025 Forum, held from 14 to 23 July, had the theme 'Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind' and examined in-depth Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

Members

The Forum is open to all UN Member States and states members of specialized agencies. Provisions include active participation of non-state actors, major groups, members of civil society and other stakeholders in sustainable development. When convened under the auspices of the General Assembly every four years, the Forum is chaired by the President of the General Assembly. When convened annually under the auspices of ECOSOC, the Forum is chaired by the ECOSOC President.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

UN-Women, 220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: aina.iiyambo@unwomen.org
X: @UN_CSW

Website: www.unwomen.org/csw
UN-Women Executive Director: Sima Sami Bahous, Jordan (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2021)

Purpose

The Commission was established by ECOSOC res. 11 (II) (1946) to prepare reports for ECOSOC on matters concerning the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, social and educational fields, and to make recommendations on problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. Its mandate has since been expanded several times. The Commission's principal output is the Agreed Conclusions on the priority theme for the year. In addition to the Agreed Conclusions, the Commission adopts resolutions on women's rights issues.

Evolution

ECOSOC resolutions 1987/22 and 1996/6 expanded and updated the Commission's mandate in response to the outcomes of the Third and Fourth World Conferences on Women, held in 1985 and 1995, respectively. GA res. 50/203 (1995) decided the Commission would have a central role in monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). This role was reaffirmed by GA res. 55/71 (2000), with the inclusion of monitoring implementation of the outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly.

ECOSOC res. 2022/4, which contains the Commission's current working methods, further reaffirms that the Commission will also contribute to the gender-responsive follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Structure

The Secretariat for the substantive work of the Commission is the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), which was created in 2010 (GA res. 64/289). UN-Women is responsible for substantive servicing of the Commission, including preparation of analysis and reports for the session, supporting the work of the CSW Bureau, helping to create a conducive environment for exchange of experiences and negotiations, facilitating the participation of civil society representatives in the sessions and coordinating side events held at the UN during the Commission's sessions. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM) serves as the technical secretariat of the Commission.

The Commission meets in plenary meetings, which include a ministerial segment. It has one working group, the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women. The Group was established by ECOSOC res. 1983/27 and consists of up to five members selected from the Commission's members with regard to geographical distribution, tasked with bringing to the Commission's attention communications that appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women.

Meetings

The Commission meets annually for up to 10 working days at UN Headquarters in New York, usually in March.

Membership

The Commission has 45 members. It originally had 15 members, and has been enlarged several times, most recently by ECOSOC res. 1989/45. Members are elected for four-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution (as noted in the following list). Until 2002, terms began on 1 January and ended on 31 December. ECOSOC decision 2002/234 provided that members' terms would begin immediately after the end of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January following election and finish at the end of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the states that succeed them, unless they are re-elected.

The Commission's Bureau is elected at the first meeting of a regular session, held immediately following the closure of the previous session. Bureau members serve for two years. The Bureau consists of a chair and four vice-chairs, one of whom is designated as the Rapporteur.

Members (45)*

	Previous	Current
African states (13 seats)		
Algeria	1993–96 2003–07 18–22	2022–26
Angola	1995–98	
Benin[1]	2000–04	
Botswana	1968–70 2002–06	
Burkina Faso	1988–91 2002–06 13–17	
Burundi[1]	1999–2003	
Cabo Verde		2022–26
Cameroon	2006–10	
Central African Republic	1971–74 2010–14	
Comoros	2010–14 18–22	
Congo	1995–98 2003–07 14–22	
Côte d'Ivoire	1987–94 1998–2001	2023–27
DR Congo	1971–78 81–84 87–94 2011–15	2023–27
Djibouti	2006–10	
Egypt[1]	1962–76 81–84 90–93 1999–2003 14–18	2022–26

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Equatorial Guinea 2015–23
Eritrea 2008–12 16–20
Eswatini 1996–99 2010–14
Ethiopia 1976–79 1997–2000 2025–29
Gabon 2002–06 07–11
Gambia 2010–14
Ghana 1962–70 79–82 90–93 1997–2000 04–08 14–22
Guinea[1] 1964–69 73–76 94–97 2001–05 09–13
Guinea-Bissau 1993–96
Kenya 1967 72–75 83–86 94–97 2014–22
Lesotho 1980–83 88–91 1998–2001 06–10 13–17
Liberia 1966–75 83–86 2011–19
Libya 1977–80 94–97 2010–14
Madagascar 1968–69 73–80 92–95
Malawi[1] 2000–04 12–13 15–19
Mali 1996–99 2005–09 2024–28
Mauritania 1967–68 70–72 2009–13 2022–26
Mauritius 1985–88 2004–08
Morocco 1969–71 89–92 1997–2000 05–09 21–25
Mozambique 2023–27
Namibia 1994–97 2007–11 17–21
Niger 1977–80 2007–11 12–16 17–21
Nigeria 1971–74 80–83 90–93 2003–07 16–20 21–25 2025–29
Rwanda 1991–94 1998–2001 09–13 2024–28
Senegal 1975–78 79–82 1999–2003 08–12 20–24
Sierra Leone 1963–65 83–86
Somalia 2020–24
South Africa 2002–06 19–23 2025–29
Sudan 1981–96 1998–2006 13–16
Togo 1976–79 84–87 95–98 2006–10 19–23
Tunisia[1] 1967–72 85–88 94–97 2001–05 17–21 2022–26
Uganda 1967 79–82 90–93 1998–2001 13–17
UR of Tanzania[1] 1989–92 2001–09 14–18
Zambia 1984–90 92–95 2006–10 21–25
Zimbabwe 1990–93 2011–15

Asia–Pacific states (11 seats)*

Afghanistan 2021–25
Bahrain 2017–21
Bangladesh 1987–94 2010–18 19–23 2024–28
Cambodia 2007–11
China 1947–63 65–67 73–76 1980–2004 04–16 17–21 2022–26
Cyprus 1968–70 90–97
DPRK 1999–2003
India 1947–51 73–88 1990–2001 03–07 08–12 14–18 21–25 2025–29
Indonesia 1955–57 62–65 71–78 83–86 90–93 95–98 2002–10 12–16
Iran[2] 1952–54 62 64–72 76–79 1990–2001 02–22[2]
Iraq 1967–72 79–82 2009–13 18–22
Japan[1] 1958–63 65–70 72–75 1977–2017 18–22 2022–26
Kazakhstan 2004–08 14–18
Kuwait 2016–20
Kyrgyzstan[1] 2000–04
Lebanon 1950–55 96–99 2022–26
Malaysia 1967–71 79–82 1990–2001 02–14 19–23
Mongolia[1] 1999–2003 10–14 15–19 20–24

Myanmar	1952–54	
Nepal	1964–66	
Pakistan[1]	1952–60 76–95 2001–05 07–11 13–17	2022–26
Philippines	1961–75 83–98 2010–14 20–24	2025–29
Qatar	2005–09 16–20	
ROK	1994–2001 02–22	2023–27
Saudi Arabia	2018–22	2023–27
Sri Lanka	1998–2001	2024–28
Syrian AR	1947–49	
Tajikistan	2014–18	
Thailand	1971–78 1989–2000 03–07 11–15	
Turkmenistan	2018–22	
UAE	2002–10	

Eastern European states (4 seats)[3]

Albania	2015–19	
Armenia	2003–11 19–23	
Azerbaijan[1]	2001–05 07–11	
Belarus	1952–57 67–78 85–88 93–96 2009–17 19–23	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2015–19	
Bulgaria	1977–80 91–98	
Croatia[1]	2000–09	
Czechia		2023–27
Estonia	2011–15 17–21	
Georgia	2011–15	
Hungary	1964–76 2004–08	
Latvia	2021–25	
Lithuania[1]	1999–2003	2025–29
Poland	1951–68 89–92 1997–2000	
Romania	1969–75	2024–28
Russian Federation	1947–2007 08–24	
Slovakia	1993–99	
Ukraine	1981–84 91	2023–27

Latin American and Caribbean states (9 seats)

Argentina[1]	1955–61 72–75 2001–05 10–14 21–25	
Bahamas	1990–97	
Belize	2005–09	2025–29
Bolivia	1998–2001 03–07	2024–28
Brazil[1]	1952–54 85–92 1996–2004 06–10 12–24	2024–28
Chile	1952–54 66–75 1992–2004 17–21	2025–29
Colombia	1960–65 70–76 89–96 2009–13 15–19 20–24	2024–28
Costa Rica	1947–50 69–75 88–91 94–97	2022–26
Cuba	1952–62 76–79 80–91 93–96 1998–2001 02–06 08–12 12–16 19–23	2023–27
Dominican Republic	1951–59 64–66 68–78 1996–2012 12–16 21–25	
Ecuador	1984–87 90–97 2006–10 13–17 18–22	
El Salvador	2004–08 10–18	
Guatemala	1967–69 80–83 88–91 2002–06 16–20	
Guyana	2014–18	
Haiti	1949–51 53–55 2008–12 18–22	
Honduras	1966–68 80–83	
Jamaica	1990–93 2011–15	
Mexico[1]	1947–52 57–68 76–79 1983–2003 06–10 20–24	
Nicaragua	1969–71 73–76 84–87 2002–06 09–13 18–22	
Panama	1979–82	2022–26
Paraguay	1997–2000 07–11 13–17	
Peru[1]	1963–65 67–69 77–80 92–95 1997–2009 17–21	

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Saint Lucia	1998–2001	
Suriname	2004–08	
Trinidad and Tobago	2016–20	2022–26
Uruguay	1970–72 2010–18	
Venezuela	1953–58 67 76–79 81–88 92–95	

Western European and Other states (8 seats)

Australia	1955–57 61–63 67–69 83–90 93–96 2019–23	
Austria	1965–67 70–72 89–96 2021–25	
Belgium	1956–58 70–80 1995–2003 03–19	2024–28
Canada	1958–60 70–76 81–92 2003–07 17–21	
Denmark[1]	1947–50 76–79 84–87 2000–04 20–23	
Finland	1960–68 71–74 79–82 92–95 2012–16	
France	1947–83 1985–2000	
Germany[1]	1976–90 1997–2017 19–23	
Greece	1949–51 59–61 73–76 85–88 95–98	
Iceland	2004–08	
Ireland	2017–21	
Israel	1956–61 2009–25	
Italy[1]	1981–84 87–94 1999–2003 09–13	2025–29
Liechtenstein	2015–19	2023–27
Netherlands[1]	1951–53 59–64 66–69 91–94 2001–09 11–15 23–24	2024–28
New Zealand	1952–53 77–80	
Norway	1969–75 80–83 96–99 2016–20	
Portugal	1995–98	2023–27
Spain	1962–64 68–70 81–84 92–95 2007–19	2023–27
Sweden	1954–59 75–78 88–91 2008–12	
Switzerland	2013–17 20–24	
Türkiye[1]	1947–50 67–69 88–91 1999–2011 21–25	
UK[1]	1947–86 1997–2009 16–20	2025–29
USA	1947–94 1996–2016 19–23	2025–29

Bureau (70th session, 2026)

Chair

Maritza Chan Valverde, Costa Rica

Vice-Chairs

Samah Dbouk, Lebanon

Andreea Mocanu, Romania

Noah Oehri, Liechtenstein

Flavia Umulisa, Rwanda

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 10 members for a four-year term from the first meeting of the 71st session in 2026 to the close of the 74th session in 2030: Cabo Verde, Gabon, Morocco, UR of Tanzania and Zimbabwe (African states); China, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia and Qatar (Asia–Pacific states). On 10 June 2025, ECOSOC elected Uruguay (Latin American and Caribbean states) for the same term. It postponed the election of one member from the Latin American and Caribbean states for the same term. As at 1 July 2025, there was one vacancy in the Asia–Pacific states group.

1 ECOSOC decision 2002/234 extended the terms of office for members of the Commission whose terms were to expire on: 31 December 2002 until the conclusion of the 47th session; 31 December 2003 until the conclusion of the 48th session; and 31 December 2004 until the conclusion of the 49th session.

2 Iran was elected for the 2022–26 term, but was removed from the Commission's membership on 14 December 2022 by ECOSOC res. 2023/2.

3 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Commission from 1954 to 1956. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution.

Statistical Commission

2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–1678
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 7771
Email: statistics@un.org

Website: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom
Chair: Georges-Simon Ulrich, Switzerland

Purpose

The Commission was established by ECOSOC res. 8 (I) (1946). It considers special issues of concern in international statistical development, methodological issues, coordination and integration of international statistical programmes, support of technical cooperation activities in statistics, and organizational matters.

It helps ECOSOC:

- Promote the development of national statistics and improve their comparability
- Coordinate the statistical work of specialized agencies and the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat
- Advise the organs of the UN on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information
- Promote the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

The Commission submits a report on each of its sessions to ECOSOC. Its terms of reference are set out in ECOSOC resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) (1946) and 1566 (L) (1971), and updated in ECOSOC res. 2022/3.

Meetings

ECOSOC decision 1999/223 decided the Commission should meet annually in New York, beginning in 2000. Sessions are usually held in February/March. The sessions are substantively serviced by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and attended by Commission member countries and observer countries, the regional commissions, other UN organizations, specialized agencies and related organizations, non-UN international organizations active in international statistical work and non-governmental organizations.

Membership

Originally 12, membership has been increased several times, most recently by ECOSOC res. 1147 (XLI) (1966) and now stands at 24. Members are elected by ECOSOC for four-year terms based on equitable geographical distribution (as noted in the list of members). Terms expire on 31 December of the final year shown in the list.

A bureau is elected by the Commission for one year with the expectation that members will be re-elected to a second one-year term if available. Nominations are made by members of the Commission, and elections are held at the beginning of a session. The Bureau comprises a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

Members (24)*

	Previous	Current
African states (5 seats)		
Angola	2014–17	
Algeria	2002–05	
Botswana	1994–2001 10–13	
Burundi		2022–25
Cabo Verde	2004–07	
Cameroon	2010–17	
Côte d'Ivoire	1998–2001	

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DR Congo 2006–09
Egypt 1964–71 78–81 86–89 2018–21
Equatorial Guinea 2018–21
Ethiopia 1978–81
Gabon 1974–77
Ghana 1967–95 2002–05
Kenya 1972–87 90–97 2004–07 16–19
Libya 1970–73 82–85 2014–17
Madagascar 2020–23
Mali 1967–68
Mauritania 2006–09
Morocco 1966–73 88–95 2000–03 10–13
Niger 2012–15
Nigeria 1982–85
Sierra Leone 1974–77 2020–23 2024–27
South Africa 2002–09 18–21
Sudan 1962–63 96–99 2008–11
Togo 1982–93 96–99 2008–11 16–19
Tunisia 1967–69 74–81 1998–2001 2022–25
Uganda 1970–73 2000–03
UR of Tanzania 2012–15 2024–27
Zambia 1986–97 2022–25

Asia–Pacific states (4 seats)

China 1947–67 1984–2003 05–20
India 1947–83 85–88 1993–2004 2024–27
Indonesia 1968–71
Iran 1953–55 89–92 2004–07
Iraq 1976–83
Japan 1962–69 1973–24 2025–28
Kuwait 2020–23
Lebanon 2008–11
Malaysia 1972–75 77–84
Mongolia 2012–15
Oman 2008–11 12–15
Pakistan 1967–68 1984–2003
Philippines 1951 69–72
Qatar 2016–19
ROK 2004–07 16–23 2024–27
Samoa 2021–24
Sri Lanka 1973–76
Thailand 1969–72
UAE 2025–28

Eastern European states (4 seats)[1]

Armenia 2009–12
Belarus 2008–11 17–20
Bulgaria 1984–91 96–99 2013–16
Croatia 2004–07
Czechia 1993–95 1997–2004 12–15 20–23
Georgia 2020–23
Hungary 1965–68 73–76 80–83 89–92 2000–03 05–08 12–15 21–24
Latvia 2016–19
Lithuania 2008–11
Poland 1969–72 92–95 2025–28
Romania 1957–64 77–80 1996–2003 16–19
Russian Federation 1947–2021 2022–25
Slovenia 2024–27
Ukraine 1947–79 81–88 93–96 2004–07 2024–27

Latin American and Caribbean states (4 seats)

Argentina	1950–52 72–79 1982–2001	2024–27
Barbados	2013–16	
Brazil	1960–67 69–96 2014–17 20–23	
Colombia	1996–99 2005–08 10–13 17–24	
Costa Rica	2002–05	
Cuba	1957–64 67–71 84–87 2004–07 12–19	2022–25
Dominican Republic	1956–69 2013–16	2025–28
Ecuador	1967–69 80–83	
Honduras	2008–11	
Jamaica	1978–81 92–95 1997–2004 06–09	
Mexico	1947–49 1981–2012 17–24	2025–28
Panama	1965–72 77–80 88–91	
Peru	2000–03 18–21	
Suriname	2009–12	
Uruguay	1962–68 73–76	
Venezuela	1970–77	

Western European and Other states (7 seats)

Australia	1952–57 60–71 81–84 93–96 1998–2001 10–13	2022–25
Austria	1980–83	
Belgium	1966–73	
Canada	1951–59 62–69 74–81 89–92 2006–09 18–21	
Denmark	1951–60 69–72 2002–05 18–21	
Finland	1981–88 2006–09	2022–25
France	1947–80 82–97 2001–04 06–09	
Germany	1986–2001 05–24	
Greece	2001–04	
Iceland	1974–76 1995–2001	
Ireland	1970–73 76–79 82–85	
Italy	2010–17	2025–28
Netherlands	1947–61 90–93 1997–2000 05–16 18–21	2022–25
New Zealand	1956–63 74–77 85–88 2002–05 14–17	
Norway	1947–50 61–68 89–92 2010–13	
Portugal	1997–2000	
Spain	1972–75 78–89 94–97 2002–05	
Sweden	1973–80 93–96 2014–17	
Switzerland	2017–24	2025–28
Türkiye	1947–50	
UK	1947–2004 05–24	2025–28
USA	1947–81 1984–2003 04–23	2024–27

Bureau (elected March 2025)

Chair
Georges-Simon Ulrich, Switzerland

Vice-Chairs
Hyoung Il Lee, ROK
Graciela Márquez, Mexico
Apolonija Oblak Flander, Slovenia

Rapporteur
Andrew Bob Johnny, Sierra Leone

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 18 members to serve a four-year term beginning 1 January 2026: Benin, Burundi, Eritrea, Morocco, Mozambique and Namibia (African states); China and Uzbekistan (Asia–Pacific states); Romania and Russian Federation (Eastern European states); Brazil, Cuba and Peru (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Austria, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway (Western European and Other states).

1 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Commission from 1954 to 1956. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution.

Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

Division for Inclusive Social Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations, Room S–2572
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNDESASocial

Website: https://social.desa.un.org/csocd
Director, UN Division for Inclusive Social Development: Charles Katoanga

Purpose

Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, CSocD has been the main UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and serves as the forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues. It also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate.

Originally known as the Social Commission but renamed in 1966, CSocD was established by ECOSOC res. 10 (II) (1946). Its purpose was to advise ECOSOC on social policies of a general character and, in particular, on all matters in the social field not covered by the specialized intergovernmental agencies. The Commission's mandate was further developed by ECOSOC resolutions 830 (XXXII) (1961), 1139 (XLI) (1966) and 1996/7. Since 2006, the Commission has taken up key social development themes as part of its follow-up to the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit. Since 2016, the Commission has addressed key social development challenges to assist Member States in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Meetings

CSocD meets annually in New York, usually in early February.

Membership

Originally 18, membership has been increased several times, most recently in 1996, and now stands at 46. Members are elected by ECOSOC based on equitable geographical distribution (as noted in the following list) for four-year terms. Until 2002, terms began on 1 January and ended on 31 December. Under ECOSOC decision 2002/210, terms now begin immediately after the Commission's regular session and end at the conclusion of a regular session, usually in February.

The Bureau comprises a chair and four vice-chairs. Bureau members are elected by the Commission at the first meeting of a regular session, held immediately after the end of a regular session for the sole purpose of electing a new bureau (ECOSOC decision 2002/210).

Members 64th session (46)*

	Previous	Current
African states (12 seats)*		
Algeria	1999–2003[1] 15–19	
Angola	2005–09	
Benin	1995–98 2000–04[1] 07–11 15–19	
Botswana	1968–70	
Burkina Faso	1966–68 2011–15	
Burundi	1989–92 2015–19	2023–27
Cameroon	1968–74 1989–2000 07–15	
Central African Republic	1983–86 2003–07	
Chad	1979–82 2019–23	

Comoros	2001–05[1]
Congo	1969–71 2017–20
Côte d'Ivoire	1972–75 92–95 2004–08 17–21
Djibouti	2021–25
DR Congo	1975–78 2005–09 13–17 20–24
Egypt	1956–78 95–98 2007–15 2023–27
Eswatini	1999–2003[1]
Ethiopia	1995–98 2004–08 09–13 20–24
Gabon	1963–65 69–71 75–78 96–99 2001–05[1] 09–13
Gambia	1997–99
Ghana	1983–94 2000–04 08–12 16–20 2023–27
Guinea	1977–80 91–94 1999–2003 21–25
Kenya	1980–87 2025–29
Lesotho	1976–82 2009–13
Liberia	1983–90 2012–16
Libya	1987–90 2003–07 20–24
Madagascar	1977–84 91–94 2013–21 2024–28
Malawi	1997–2000 13–21
Mali	1964–67 75–78 85–88 2004–08
Mauritania	1964–76 97–99 2012–16
Mauritius	2009–13
Morocco	1967–69 80–87 1999–2003[1] 19–23
Namibia	2007–11 15–19
Nigeria	1972–75 91–94 2000–04[1] 08–16 20–24
Rwanda	2016–20
Senegal	1979–82 2003–07 08–12 17–20 2025–29
Sierra Leone	1970–72 76–79 2019–23
Somalia	1971–74
South Africa	1947–51 1997–2009[1] 19–23 2025–29
Sudan	1973–76 81–84 1988–2004 08–16 17–21
Togo	1979–90 95–98 2024–28
Tunisia	1962–74 2004–08
Uganda	1964–67 88–91 1997–2000 13–17 21–25
UR of Tanzania	1967–68 2001–09[1]
Zambia	2003–07 21–25
Zimbabwe	1985–88 93–96 2011–15 2024–28

Asia–Pacific states (10 seats)

Afghanistan	2021–25
Bangladesh	1987–90 2001–09[1] 12–15 16–20 2023–27
China	1947–64 66–68 1989–2005[1] 05–25 2025–29
Cyprus	1967–94
DPRK	1999–2003 05–09
India	1949–57 69–75 79–86 1997–2000 03–11 18–21 2023–27
Indonesia	1972–83 86–88 92–95 2000–08[1]
Iran	1967–70 1991–2007 09–13 15–19 20–24 2024–28
Iraq	1962–65 73–80 88–91 2015–23
Japan	1971–78 1996–2024 2024–28
Jordan	1947–50 53–55
Kazakhstan	2001–05[1]
Kuwait	2013–17 18–21
Kyrgyzstan	2025–29
Lebanon	1969–71
Malaysia	1962–65 84–87 97–98
Mongolia	1976–87 95–98 2012–16
Myanmar	2005–09

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Nepal	1997–99 2007–11 12–15	
Pakistan	1967–69 88–95 1997–2000 03–07 08–12 13–17	
Philippines	1952–57 67–72 77–84 1989–2000 09–13	
Qatar	2009–13 15–23	2024–28
ROK	1996–2024	
Saudi Arabia		2023–27
Sri Lanka	1962	
Tajikistan	2021–25	
Thailand	1970–76 81–88 1999–2003[1]	2025–29
Turkmenistan	2014–25	2025–29
UAE	2007–11	
Viet Nam	2001–05[1] 12–15	

Eastern European states (5 seats)*[2]

Albania	1961–64 2009–13	
Armenia	2008–12	
Belarus	1951–60 62–71 83–86 1992–2004 12–16 17–20	2024–28
Bulgaria	1964–67 2001–05[1] 17–21	
Croatia	1999–2003	
Czechia	2001–09[1]	
Hungary	1976–79	
North Macedonia	2020–24	
Poland	1947–50 77–92 1997–2000 13–17 21–25	
Republic of Moldova	2004–08 16–19	
Romania	1968–70 75–82 84–91 1997–2000 03–07 13–21	
Russian Federation	1947–24	2024–28
Slovakia	2007–11	
Ukraine	1972–75 80–83 91–98 2005–09 12–15 19–23	2023–27

Latin American and Caribbean states (9 seats)*

Argentina	1964–66 68–70 1983–2007 08–12 13–17 19–23	
Belize		2024–28
Bolivia	1950–52 79–82 93–96 2005–09 15–19	
Brazil	1950–55 60–63 2009–25	
Chile	1967–2000 04–08 13–17	
Colombia	1947–49 53–59 73–76 2015–23	2023–27
Costa Rica	1971–78 80–83 2021–25	
Cuba	1964–67 69–71 1997–2000 07–15 20–24	2025–29
Dominican Republic	1956–59 72–79 1987–2007 12–16 21–24	
Ecuador	1957–64 77–80 83–86 89–92 1997–2004 12–16 21–25	
El Salvador	1980–87 2001–05[1] 08–20	
Grenada	1976–79	
Guatemala	1970–72 88–91 97–98 2000–04[1] 08–12 19–23	2024–28
Haiti	1984–95 1999–2008[1] 09–13 17–21	2023–27
Honduras	1964–67	
Jamaica	1971–74 1997–2005[1] 07–11	
Mexico	1968–70 75–78 92–95 2001–05[1] 07–19	
Nicaragua	1979–82	
Panama	1981–88 2017–21	
Paraguay	2005–09 16–24	2024–28
Peru	1947–49 67–68 1996–2008 11–15 16–20	2023–27
Suriname	2003–07	2025–29
Uruguay	1954–56 60–69 72–75	
Venezuela	1967–71 96–99 2005–13	

Western European and Other states (10 seats)*

Andorra 2007–15
Australia 1950–52 54–56 58–61
Austria 1962–65 73–76 83–98 2001–05[1] 12–23 2023–27
Belgium 1951–56 72–75
Canada 1961–64 67–72 84–87 1997–2000
Denmark 1964–66 77–80 85–88 93–96 2001–05[1] 09–13
Finland 1960–63 75–78 83–86 89–92 1997–2000 05–09 13–17 21–25
France 1947–2012 14–21
Germany 1987–2016
Greece 1947–48 52–57 67–69
Iceland 2017–20
Israel 1951–56 61–64 66–68 2016–23 2024–27
Italy 1958–61 70–88 2001–09[1] 09–13
Luxembourg 2017–21 22–25
Malta 1989–2000 03–07
Monaco 2005–09
Netherlands 1957–60 66–71 76–83 85–88 1993–2000 05–13
New Zealand 1947–52 57–60 73–76
Norway 1953–55 67–69 79–82 87–90 95–98
Portugal 2016–23 2023–27
Spain 1957–60 68–74 89–92 1997–2015
Sweden 1956–59 70–72 81–84 91–94 1999–2003[1] 09–13
Switzerland 2001–05[1] 09–13 14–25 2025–29
Türkiye 1949–51 77–84 1999–2011 20–24
UK 1947–82
USA 1947–2024

Bureau (63rd session, 2024–25)[3]

Chair
Krzysztof Maria Szczerski, Poland

Vice-Chairs
AlMaha Mubarak Al-Thani, Qatar
Oliver Gruenbacher, Austria
Joselyne Kwishaka, Burundi

Vice-Chair–Rapporteur
Paola Andrea Morris Garrido, Guatemala

Notes

* As at 1 July 2025, there were 12 vacancies for the Commission's 64th session: three from the African states, one for the term expiring at the close of the 65th session in 2027, one for the term expiring at the close of the 66th session in 2028, and one for the term expiring at the close of the 67th session in 2029; two from the Eastern European states, both for the term expiring at the close of the 67th session in 2029; one from the Latin American and Caribbean states, for the term expiring at the close of the 67th session in 2029; and six from the Western European and Other states, three for the term expiring at the close of the 66th session in 2028 and three for the term expiring at the close of the 66th session in 2029.

1 ECOSOC decision 2002/210 extended the terms of office for members of the Commission whose terms were to expire on: 31 December 2002 until the conclusion of the 41st session; 31 December 2003 until the conclusion of the 42nd session; 31 December 2004 until the conclusion of the 43rd session.

2 Czechoslovakia served on the Commission in 1947–48, 1953–59 and 1964–76. The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Commission in 1947–52, 1960–63 and 1971–74. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution.

3 On 14 February 2025, the Commission elected Khrystyna Hayovyshyn, Ukraine, as Chair of its 64th session, and Céline Pierre Fabre, Haiti, and Stefano Guerra, Portugal, as Vice-Chairs.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

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Austria

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Email: unodc-sgb@un.org
X: @CCPCJ

Website: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/
Secretary: Jo Dedeyne-Amann, Belgium (since 2012)

Purpose

The CCPCJ was established by ECOSOC in 1992. Its main functions are to:

- Provide policy guidance to the UN and its Member States on crime prevention and criminal justice
- Act as a governing body of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and approve the budget of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund
- Facilitate and help coordinate the activities of and maintain close links with the inter-regional and regional institutes of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (PNI)
- Mobilize the support of Member States
- Offer Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime
- Act as the preparatory body for the quinquennial UN Congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice.

ECOSOC res. 1992/1, which established the CCPCJ, also dissolved its predecessor, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (also see GA res. 46/152 (1991)).

The CCPCJ's mandates (ECOSOC res. 1992/22) are carried out by the UNODC crime programme.

Meetings

The CCPCJ meets annually in Vienna, in May. Since 2010, it has also held annual one-day reconvened sessions in the second half of the year to consider budgetary matters (ECOSOC decision 2009/251). Since 2011, the CCPCJ and Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) have held joint meetings during their annual reconvened sessions (ECOSOC decision 2011/259).

Membership

The Commission is composed of 40 Member States elected by ECOSOC, based on equitable geographical distribution (as shown in the list of members). Members are elected for three-year terms that begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of the years shown. The Commission elects a bureau at the end of its reconvened session for the next session. The Bureau consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

Members (40)

	Previous	Current
African states (12 seats)		
Algeria	2003–05 09–14 19–21	
Angola	2010–12 21–23	
Benin	2010–12 16–18	
Botswana	2004–06	
Burkina Faso	2019–21	2024–26
Burundi	2004–06	
Cameroon	2007–18 21–23	2024–26
Central African Republic	2003–05	

Comoros	2004–11	
Côte d'Ivoire	2016–18 21–23	
DR Congo	2002–03 06–17	
Egypt	2004–06 18–20	2024–26
Eritrea	2015–23	
Eswatini	2019–21	
Ethiopia	2003–05	
Gambia	2003–05	2025–27
Ghana	2009–11 13–15 22–24	
Kenya	2009–23	
Lesotho	2009–11	
Liberia	2015–17	
Libya	2006–11 22–24	
Madagascar		2024–26
Mauritania	2003–05 18–20	
Mauritius	2012–23	
Morocco	2015–23	2024–26
Namibia	2006–08 13–15 21–23	
Niger	2006–08	
Nigeria	2004–15 19–24	2025–27
Senegal	2006–08	
Sierra Leone	2007–09 12–17	
South Africa	2007–09 12–14 16–20	2024–26
Sudan	2009–11	
Togo	2018–20 22–24	2025–27
Tunisia	2012–14	2025–27
Uganda	2003–08 12–14	2024–26
UR of Tanzania	2006–08	
Zambia	2003–05	
Zimbabwe	2015–17	2024–26

Asia–Pacific states (9 seats)

Afghanistan	2018–20	
Bahrain	2022–24	
China	2003–23	2024–26
India	2004–12 16–24	
Indonesia	2004–09 13–15 18–20	2024–26
Iran	2004–21	2024–26
Iraq	2019–21	
Japan	2003–23	2024–26
Kazakhstan		2025–27
Kuwait	2019–21	
Pakistan	2003–08 10–18 22–24	2025–27
Philippines	2010–12	
Qatar	2015–17 22–24	
ROK	2003–18 21–23	2025–27
Saudi Arabia	2004–18 21–23	
Thailand	2004–17 19–24	2025–27
UAE	2007–09 12–14	2025–27

Eastern European states (4 seats)

Albania		2025–27
Armenia	2006–08 21–23	2024–26
Belarus	2010–24	
Bulgaria	2018–20 22–24	
Croatia	2003–05 12–14	
Czechia	2004–06 13–15	2024–26

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Latvia		2025–27
North Macedonia	2020–21	
Republic of Moldova	2007–09	
Romania	2009–11	
Russian Federation	2003–23	
Serbia	2016–18	
Slovakia	2015–17	
Ukraine	2004–12	

Latin American and Caribbean states (8 seats)

Argentina	2007–15	2025–27
Bahamas	2013–15	
Bolivia	2006–08 18–20	
Brazil	2004–24	2025–27
Chile	2006–08 10–12 16–18 22–24	
Colombia	2007–09 12–23	2025–27
Costa Rica	2006–08	
Cuba	2004–06 09–14 16–24	2025–27
Dominican Republic	2022–24	
Ecuador	2015–17 19–21	
El Salvador	2004–06 09–11 15–17 21–23	2025–27
Guatemala	2007–09 16–21	2024–26
Jamaica	2004–09	
Mexico	2004–06 10–21	2024–26
Nicaragua	2003–05	
Paraguay	2004–06 22–24	
Peru	2003–05 13–15 21–23	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2010–12	
Uruguay	2009–14 18–20	2024–26

Western European and Other states (7 seats)

Austria	2003–14 16–24	
Belgium	2009–11	
Canada	2004–17 22–24	2025–27
Finland	2004–06	2024–26
France	2016–24	2025–27
Germany	2006–23	2025–27
Italy	2003–08 12–23	2024–26
Norway	2013–15	
Sweden	2016–18	
Switzerland	2013–15	
Türkiye	2003–05 07–12 19–21	
UK	2004–15 18–23	2024–26
USA	2004–24	2025–27

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3401
Fax: +1 917 367 3186
Email: unff@un.org

Website: www.un.org/esa/forests

Director, UNFF Secretariat: Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2022)

Purpose

The UNFF, as the intergovernmental body of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), was established by ECOSOC in 2000 to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy development, implementation and coordination on sustainable forest management. It has reached notable milestones including the adoption of the first UN Forest Instrument in 2007, the creation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) in 2015 and most recently, the adoption in 2017 of the first UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–30).

At its 11th session in May 2015, the Forum decided to strengthen the IAF and extended it to 2030. In December 2015, on the recommendation of the Forum at its 11th session, the General Assembly decided to extend the timeline of the UN Forest Instrument's global objectives on forests to 2030, in line with the timeline of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (GA res. 70/199). At its 19th session in May 2024, the Forum conducted its mid-term review of the IAF's effectiveness and adopted a resolution and a high-level declaration, and also agreed on its programme of work for 2025–28.

At its special session in January 2017, the Forum adopted the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, which was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly in April 2017 (GA res. 71/286). The key mission of the Strategic Plan is to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by strengthening cooperation and political commitment at all levels. The Plan features a set of six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal.

The Global Forest Goals and targets cover a wide range of issues, including: increasing forest area and combating climate change; reducing poverty and increasing forest protected areas; mobilizing financing and inspiring innovation; and promoting governance and enhancing cooperation across sectors and stakeholders. One of the groundbreaking aspects of the Strategic Plan is a target to expand the world's forests by 3 percent, an area of 120 million hectares, by 2030. The Forum's 16th session in April 2021 launched a new flagship publication, the Global Forest Goals Report 2021 (GFGR). The next GFGR is due to be released in 2026. The first phase of the Clearing House of the GFFFN, with three databases on forest financing opportunities, best practices and lessons learned, was also launched at UNFF16.

To support the UNFF's work and enhance collaboration, ECOSOC invited the executive heads of relevant UN system organizations, amongst others, to establish a Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which was established as a voluntary arrangement in 2001. The CPF consists of 16 international organizations, institutions and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) serves as the Chair and the UNFF Secretariat serves both as a member and the secretariat of the Partnership.

Major legislative mandates are provided in ECOSOC resolutions 2000/35, 2006/49, 2015/33, 2017/4 , 2020/14, 2021/6, 2022/17 and 2024/15, and GA resolutions 61/193 (2006), 62/98 (2008), 67/200 (2012), 70/199 (2015), 71/285 (2017) and 71/286 (2017).

Meetings

From 2001 to 2007, the UNFF met annually for two weeks; then from 2007 to 2015, the UNFF met biennially for two weeks. At its 11th session in 2015, the Forum decided to change the frequency and duration of future UNFF sessions to meet annually for one week, starting in 2017. Since then, odd-year sessions focus on discussions on implementation, technical advice and exchange of experiences, while even-year sessions focus on policy dialogue, development and decision-making. Most recently, UNFF20 took place from 5 to 9 May 2025.

Membership

Membership is open to all UN Member States and states members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation including voting rights (the UNFF is the only functional commission under ECOSOC with universal membership). CPF member organizations and relevant regional and sub-regional processes and organizations, as well as major groups and other stakeholders, as identified in Agenda 21, are involved in UNFF sessions.

The UNFF Bureau consists of a chair and four vice-chairs in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. One vice-chair is designated to act concurrently as the Rapporteur.

Bureau 20th and 21st sessions, 2024–25 (elected 10 May 2024)

Chair
Ismail Belen, Türkiye

Vice-Chairs
Abderrahim Houmy, Morocco
Javad Momeni, Iran
Andrés Napurí Pita, Peru
Maria Sokolenko, Russian Federation

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

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X: @ECA_OFFICIAL
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/unecaVideo

Website: www.uneca.org
Executive Secretary: Claver Gatete, Rwanda (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in October 2023)

Purpose

ECA is the regional arm of the UN in Africa. It was established by ECOSOC in 1958 as one of the UN's five regional commissions (ECOSOC res. 671A (XXV) (1958)). ECA's mandate is to support the economic and social development of its Member States, foster regional integration and promote international cooperation for Africa's development.

ECA's work programme is guided by five strategic directions: building ECA's analytical capabilities; formulating macroeconomic and structural policy; designing innovative financing models; supporting regional and sub-regional transboundary initiatives; and advocating continental ideas at the global level. It works with countries to promote inclusive and sustainable development in support of accelerating the economic diversification and structural transformation of Africa, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. It also provides technical advisory services to African Union (AU) governments, intergovernmental organizations and institutions. In addition, it formulates and promotes development assistance programmes and acts as the executing agency for relevant operational projects.

ECA's work is organized around nine substantive programme clusters: macroeconomics and governance; private sector development and finance; data and statistics; technology, climate change and natural resource management; poverty, inequality and social policy; sub-regional activities for development; gender equality and the empowerment of women; regional integration and trade; and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP).

Structure

ECA is headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It coordinates with the AU through its Partnerships Office and the Joint Secretariat Support Office of the ECA, AU Commission (AUC) and African Development Bank (AfDB). It has five sub-regional offices, one each in central, east, north, southern and west Africa. ECA is headed by an Executive Secretary, who is assisted by two Deputy Executive Secretaries.

Meetings

ECA sessions (Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development) are held annually. Most recently, the 57th session was held from 12 to 18 March 2025 in Addis Ababa. ECA also jointly organizes the annual Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) with the Forum's host government, in collaboration with the AUC, AfDB and other UN system entities. More information is available on the website under 'Events'.

Membership

The geographical scope of ECA's work is the continent and islands of Africa. Membership is open to members of the UN in this region and to any state in the area that may become a member of the UN in the future. Under its terms of reference, ECA may invite UN Member States to participate in its work in a consultative capacity. Switzerland participates in a consultative capacity by virtue of ECOSOC res. 925 (XXXIV) (1962).

Members (54)

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
DR Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

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Fax: +66 2 288 1000
Email: escap–registry@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNESCAP
X: @UNESCAP
LinkedIn: United Nations ESCAP

Website: www.unescap.org
Executive Secretary: Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Indonesia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2018; took office in November 2018)

Purpose

ESCAP is the regional development arm of the UN in Asia and the Pacific. The largest UN regional commission in terms of area covered and population served, ESCAP promotes inclusive and sustainable economic, social and environmental development, with a particular focus on reducing disparities within and among countries in the region.

ESCAP also assists its membership in: the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular emphasis on countries in special situations (the region's least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS)); the implementation of regional intergovernmental frameworks and agreements; and the formulation of common regional positions on global issues.

Under the programme structure endorsed by GA res. 70/247 (2016), and modified with ESCAP res. 78/1 (2022), ESCAP's work is implemented through nine sub-programmes: macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development; trade, investment and innovation; transport; environment and development; information and communication technology and disaster risk reduction; social development; statistics; energy; and sub-regional activities.

ESCAP was originally established by ECOSOC res. 37 (IV) (1947) as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). ECOSOC res. 1895 (LVII) (1974) approved the change of name to ESCAP.

Structure

The main legislative organ of ESCAP is the Commission, which provides a forum for governments of the Asia–Pacific region to review and discuss economic, social and environmental development issues, strengthen sub-regional and regional cooperation and formulate common regional positions on global issues. The Commission also has nine sectoral committees that cover: macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development; trade and investment; transport; environment and development; information and communication technology, science, technology and innovation; disaster risk reduction; social development; statistics; and energy.

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) was established in 1974. Formal meetings are held once every two months to advise and exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the Secretariat's work, and to maintain close cooperation and consultation between Member States and the Secretariat.

The Commission also has the following regional institutions under its auspices:

- Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), New Delhi, India
- Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communications Technology for Development (APCICT), Incheon, ROK

- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Chiba, Japan
- Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), Beijing, China
- Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), Tehran, Iran.

ESCAP's work on sub-regional activities for development covers: the Pacific, with an office in Suva, Fiji; East and North-East Asia, with an office in Incheon, ROK; North and Central Asia, with an office in Almaty, Kazakhstan; South and South-West Asia, with an office in New Delhi, India; and South-East Asia, coordinated by ESCAP's headquarters, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Meetings

The Commission meets annually, usually in April in Bangkok, Thailand. Information on intergovernmental meetings and other activities of ESCAP can be found on its website.

Membership

ESCAP is composed of 53 Member States, of which 30 are LDCs, LLDCs or SIDS, and nine associate members, of which seven are SIDS. Most members are states physically located within the broad geographical scope of the Commission, plus France, Netherlands, UK and USA.

Members (53)

Afghanistan
Armenia
Australia
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
China
DPRK
Fiji
France
Georgia
India
Indonesia
Iran
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
ROK
Russian Federation
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
UK
USA
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

Associate Members (9)

American Samoa
Cook Islands
French Polynesia
Guam
Hong Kong, China
Macau, China
New Caledonia
Niue
Northern Mariana Islands

UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 1234
Email: unece_info@un.org

Website: www.unece.org
Executive Secretary: Tatiana Molcean, Republic of Moldova (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2023)

continued next page

Purpose

UNECE's major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration. Created in 1947 by ECOSOC res. 36 (IV) (1947), it brings together 56 countries from Europe, Central Asia and North America to work together on economic and sectoral issues.

The Commission provides analysis, policy advice and assistance to governments. In cooperation with other stakeholders, notably the business community, it gives focus to UN global economic mandates. It also sets out norms, standards and conventions to facilitate international cooperation within and outside the region.

Structure

UNECE is responsible for making strategic decisions on its work programme and provides a forum for policy dialogue on economic developments in the region. Principal subsidiary bodies are committees on: economic cooperation and integration, environmental policy, European statisticians, housing and land management, inland transport, sustainable energy, forests and forest industry, and trade. More structural and governance information is on the website under 'About UNECE'.

Meetings

The Commission holds a public session every two years. Most recently, the 71st session took place in April 2025. Sectoral committee meetings are held throughout the year.

Membership

UNECE is composed of the European members of the UN, the USA, Canada, Israel and the Central Asian and Caucasian former USSR republics. The Holy See, which is not a member of the UN, participates in UNECE activities in a consultative capacity. Provision is also made for participation by representatives of other UN Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Members (56)

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Canada
Croatia
Cyprus
Czechia
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
North Macedonia
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
UK
USA
Uzbekistan

Bureau 2025–27

Chair
Italy

Vice-Chairs
Kazakhstan
Montenegro

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

United Nations Building
3477 Dag Hammarskjöld Ave
PO Box 179–D
Vitacura 7630412
Chile

Telephone: +56 2 2210 2000
Email: secretarioejecutivo@cepal.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/eclac
X: @eclac_un
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/ECLACUN
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/eclac

Website: www.cepal.org/en
Executive Secretary: José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Costa Rica (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2022)

Purpose

ECLAC was originally founded in 1948 by ECOSOC res. 106 (VI) to coordinate policies for the promotion of sustainable economic development and to foster regional and international trade in Latin America. Later, its work was extended to the Caribbean countries and territories and its programme of action expanded to promote sustainable social development. ECLAC commemorated its 75th anniversary in 2023.

In 1996, Member States updated ECLAC's mandate through res. 553 (XXVI). Under this provision, the Commission helps Member States analyse the development process by formulating, evaluating and following up on public policies, as well as by providing assistance in areas of specialized information. The Spanish acronym for ECLAC is CEPAL.

Structure

ECLAC has the following nine subsidiary bodies:

- Committee of the Whole of ECLAC
- Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)
- Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies
- Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regional Conference on South–South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Regional Council for Planning
- Statistical Conference of the Americas.

Resolution 700 (XXXVI), Mexico Resolution, adopted at the Commission's 36th session in 2016, established the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).

The ECLAC Secretariat divisions are: economic development; social development; statistics; population (Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE)); international trade and integration; economic and social planning (Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES)); production, productivity and management; sustainable development and human settlements; natural resources and infrastructure; gender affairs; programme planning and operations; publications and web services.

In addition to headquarters in Santiago, Chile, the Commission has sub-regional headquarters in Mexico City for Mexico and Central America, and in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, for the Caribbean. It also maintains country offices in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Brasilia, Brazil; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Bogota, Colombia; and a liaison office in Washington, DC.

Meetings

The Commission's session meetings are held every two years. Its 40th session took place in Lima, Peru, in October 2024. The Committee of the Whole meets between sessions.

Membership

ECLAC membership is made up of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and 13 developed nations from North America, Europe and Asia that have strong economic, social and cultural linkages with the region. Additionally, 14 non-independent territories in the Caribbean are associate members.

Members (46)

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
France
Germany
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Mexico
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Portugal
ROK
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Spain
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Türkiye
UK
USA
Uruguay
Venezuela

Associate members (14)

Anguilla
Aruba
Bermuda
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Curaçao
French Guiana
Guadeloupe
Martinique
Montserrat
Puerto Rico
Sint Maarten
Turks and Caicos Islands
United States Virgin Islands

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

PO Box 11–8575
Riad el-Solh Square, Beirut
Lebanon
Telephone: +961 1 981 301

Email: escwa-ciu@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unescwa
X: @UNESCWA
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@UNESCWA

Website: www.unescwa.org
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary: Rola Dashti, Kuwait (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2019)

Purpose

ESCWA supports its member states in their efforts towards sustainable development. By analysing regional and national economic, social and environmental trends in the light of global UN agendas, ESCWA provides its member states with policy recommendations that build on a thorough analysis of facts and commonalities. It also underscores the benefits of integration and creates regional public goods, including knowledge, data, tools and capacity.

ESCWA was originally established by ECOSOC res. 1818 (LV) (1973) as the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). It was renamed the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in 1985 to reflect its expanded mandate to cover the social development field.

Structure

The ESCWA biennial session is the highest intergovernmental source of resolutions and recommendations on development issues to member states. It also advises ECOSOC of the consolidated views of member states on issues significant to economic and social development at the global level; facilitates policy discussion among high-level government officials on the regional development agenda and emerging issues; and sets mandates within the global development framework based on the expressed needs of the member states.

The 10 intergovernmental bodies of ESCWA are the Executive Committee and nine specialized subsidiary committees: statistical, social development, energy, water resources, transport and logistics, women, technology for development, trade policies and financing for development.

Meetings

The ministerial session of ESCWA is the governing body and is normally held once every two years.

Membership

ESCWA comprises 21 Arab countries.

Members (21)

Algeria	Lebanon	Somalia
Bahrain	Libya	State of Palestine
Djibouti	Mauritania	Sudan
Egypt	Morocco	Syrian AR
Iraq	Oman	Tunisia
Jordan	Qatar	UAE
Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	Yemen

STANDING COMMITTEES

Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)

Secretariat Building
S–3241
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 5306
Email: cpc@un.org

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/cpc

Purpose

The Committee was initially established by ECOSOC res. 920 (XXXIV) (1962) and given its present name by ECOSOC res. 1171 (XLI) (1966). Legislation defining its terms of reference is consolidated in ECOSOC res. 2008 (LX) (1976), which provides that the Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of ECOSOC and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.

The CPC is charged with:

- Reviewing UN programmes as defined in the strategic framework[1]
- Recommending priority programmes
- Guiding the Secretariat on translating legislation into programmes and making recommendations, taking into account that duplication should be avoided
- Developing evaluation procedures
- Assisting ECOSOC in its coordination functions.

The CPC is required to consider the activities of UN agencies on a sectoral basis and recommend guidelines for them, taking into account the need for coherence and coordination. It must also carry out periodic reviews of the implementation of important legislative decisions. It is directed to cooperate with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and consult with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

Meetings

The CPC usually meets for five weeks in New York in May and June.

Membership

Originally 11, membership has been increased several times, most recently by GA decision 42/450 (1987), and now stands at 34. In accordance with GA res. 42/318 (1987) and ECOSOC res. 1987/94, members are elected by the General Assembly on the nomination of ECOSOC and on the basis of equitable geographical distribution (as shown in the list of members). Members serve three-year terms, expiring on 31 December.[2] The Bureau (on the website under 'Current Session') is elected annually and consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur.

Members (34)*

	Previous	Current
African states (9 seats)		
Algeria	1990–92 2005–07 11–13	
Angola	2019–21	
Benin	1986–91 95–97 1999–2001 03–08 11–16	
Botswana	2001–03 13–15 18–20 22–24	2025–27
Burkina Faso	1987–89 2015–20	
Burundi	1978–80 91–93	
Cameroon	1981–92 1994–2002 12–23	2024–26
Central African Republic	2003–11	
Chad	2018–20	
Comoros	1994–96 1999–2001 04–12 20–22	
Congo	1991–99	
Côte d'Ivoire	1988–90	2024–26
DR Congo	1996–98	
Egypt	1984–86 1993–2001 17–19	
Equatorial Guinea	2015–17	
Eritrea	2011–13 17–19 21–23	
Eswatini	2021–23	
Ethiopia	1983–85 2002–04 14–16 19–21	
Gabon	2000–05	
Ghana	1978–80 92–97 2005–07	
Guinea	2009–14	
Guinea-Bissau	2012–14	
Kenya	1972–80 88–90 93–95 2005–10 22–24	2025–27
Liberia	1984–86 20–22	2023–25
Libya	2008–10	
Mali	2021–23	
Mauritania	2000–02 20–22	
Morocco	1981–83 90–92 2014–16	2023–25
Namibia	2010–12 15–17	
Niger	2008–10	
Nigeria	1983–85 91–93 97–99 2002–04 09–11	
Rwanda	1988–90	2024–26
Senegal	1981–83 94–96 2006–08 17–19	
South Africa	2003–11	2024–26

Sudan	1977–82	
Togo	1974–76 93–98	
Tunisia	1987–89 2002–04	2023–25
Uganda	1972–79 88–93 1998–2000	
UR of Tanzania	1972–77 80–82 2001–03 13–18	
Zambia	1986–94 1998–2000	
Zimbabwe	1997–2002 04–09 12–14 16–18	

Asia–Pacific states (7 seats)

Bahrain	1988–90	
Bangladesh	1985–90 2000–02 08–10 17–19	
China	1987–2022	2023–25
India	1975–86 88–96 2003–11 18–23	2024–26
Indonesia	1972–80 84–89 1991–2008	
Iran	1994–2023	2024–26
Iraq	1985–87 91–93 2015–17	
Japan[2]	1975–2007 12–16 18–23	2024–26
Kazakhstan[2]	2009–14	
Malaysia	2012–14	
Pakistan	1973–84 1988–2023	2024–26
Philippines	1981–83 2021–22	2023–25
ROK	1993–2022	2023–25
Saudi Arabia	2015–17	
Sri Lanka	1990–92	
Thailand	1997–99	

Eastern European states (4 seats)[3]

Armenia	2003–11 15–17 21–23	2024–26
Belarus	1973–78 85–87 94–96 2006–23	
Bulgaria	1976–78 91–93 2006–08 12–14 18–20	2024–26
Hungary	1973–75	
Poland	1988–93 1997–2002 21–23	2024–26
Republic of Moldova	2000–05 12–14 18–20	
Romania	1979–84 88–90 94–99	
Russian Federation	1974–2024	2025–27
Ukraine	1991–2005 09–11 15–17	

Latin American and Caribbean states (7 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda	2011–13	
Argentina	1974–88 90–92 1994–2014 16–21	2023–25
Bahamas	1988–2006	
Brazil	1975–89 1991–2023	2024–26
Chile	1976–78 83–85 91–93 2018–20 22–24	
Colombia	1977–79 88–93	
Costa Rica	1980–82 2021–23	2024–26
Cuba	1988–90 94–96 2008–23	
Dominican Republic	2021–23	
El Salvador	2013–15	
Guyana	1973–75	
Haiti	1974–76 2007–12 14–19	2025–27
Jamaica	2005–10	
Mexico	1988–90 1995–2006	2024–26
Nicaragua	1993–95 97–99 2003–05	
Paraguay	2019–21 22–24	2025–27
Peru	1986–88 2000–02 13–18	
Trinidad and Tobago	1979–99	
Uruguay	1992–94 1996–2004 06–17 20–22	2024–26
Venezuela	1989–91 2007–12 15–17	

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Western European and Other states (7 seats)

Austria	1988–90 97–99	
Belgium	1973–81 2022–24	2025–27
Canada	1988–90 94–96 2003–05	
Denmark	1973–78	
France	1974–2024	2025–27
Germany	1982–2005 18–23	2024–26
Israel	2006–08 10–12	2024–26
Italy	1991–93 1997–2002 06–23	2024–26
Malta	1970–72 2021–23	
Monaco	2003–05	
Netherlands	1982–87 91–96	
Norway	1979–81 91–96	
Portugal	1999–2002 06–08 15–20	
San Marino	2000–02	
Spain	2009–11	
Sweden	1988–90	
Switzerland	2003–08	
UK	1973–2005 13–23	2024–26
USA	1974–2006 13–23	2024–26

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC nominated six members for election by the General Assembly to three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2026: Egypt, Nigeria and Senegal (African states); China and ROK (Asia–Pacific states); and Cuba (Latin American and Caribbean states).

1 In GA res. 72/266 A (2017), the Assembly approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis and decided that the proposed programme budget would be submitted through the CPC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the consideration of the General Assembly, and examined by the Committees in accordance with their respective mandates. In GA res. 77/267 (2022), the Assembly decided to lift the trial period effective from 2023 and requested the Secretary-General to continue with the submission of the programme budget according to an annual cycle. For more detailed information, see the website.

2 The 2012–13 and 2012–14 terms began in April 2012.

3 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Committee from 1979 to 1990. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution.

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

UN Secretariat, Room S–26
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: please use the contact form on the website

Website: https://ecosoc.un.org/en/ngo/committee-on-ngos

Purpose

The Committee was established by ECOSOC res. 3 (II) (1946) to examine and report on the consultative relationship that ECOSOC should accord to international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). ECOSOC res. 1996/31 approved new criteria by which consultative arrangements between ECOSOC and NGOs may be established.

Meetings

The Committee traditionally meets for a total of 15 working days (30 meetings) a year: eight days (15 meetings) for its regular session at the end of January and seven days (13 meetings) for its resumed session at the end of May, plus one extra meeting at the end of each session to adopt its report.

Membership

Originally five, membership has been increased several times, most recently by ECOSOC res. 1981/50, and now stands at 19. Membership is open to all states, with regard to equitable geographical representation (as noted in the list of members). Under ECOSOC decision 70 (ORG–75) (1975), members are elected for four-year terms, beginning on 1 January and expiring on 31 December. The Committee elects a bureau every year.*

Members (since 2007) (19)

	Previous	Current
African states (5 seats)		
Algeria		2023–26
Angola	2007–10	
Burundi	2007–22	
Cameroon		2023–26
Egypt	2007–10	
Eritrea		2023–26
Eswatini	2019–22	
Guinea	2007–10 15–18	
Liberia		2023–26
Libya	2019–22	
Mauritania	2015–18	
Morocco	2011–14	
Mozambique	2011–14	
Nigeria	2019–22	
Senegal	2011–14	
South Africa	2015–18	
Sudan	2007–22	
Zimbabwe		2023–26
Asia–Pacific states (4 seats)		
Bahrain	2019–22	2023–26
China	2007–22	2023–26
India	2007–22	2023–26
Iran	2015–18	
Kyrgyzstan	2011–14	
Pakistan	2007–22	2023–26
Qatar	2007–10	
Eastern European states (2 seats)		
Armenia		2023–26
Azerbaijan	2015–18	
Bulgaria	2011–14	
Estonia	2019–22	
Georgia		2023–26
Romania	2007–10	
Russian Federation	2007–22	
Latin American and Caribbean states (4 seats)		
Brazil	2019–22	
Chile		2023–26
Colombia	2007–10	
Costa Rica		2023–26
Cuba	2007–22	2023–26
Dominica	2007–10	
Mexico	2019–22	
Nicaragua	2011–22	2023–26

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Peru	2007–14	
Uruguay	2015–18	
Venezuela	2011–18	

Western European and Other states (4 seats)

Belgium	2011–14	
Greece	2015–22	
Israel	2007–22	2023–26
Türkiye	2007–22	2023–26
UK	2007–10	2023–26
USA	2007–22	2023–26

Note

* On 20 January 2025, the Committee elected Andrew Sigley, UK, as Vice-Chair; on 19 May 2025, it elected Sayed Ansar Hussain Shah, Pakistan, and Gustavo Ramírez Baca, Costa Rica, as Vice-Chairs.

EXPERT BODIES

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Financing for Sustainable Development Office
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–2170
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 8415
Email: ffdoffice@un.org

Website: https://financing.desa.un.org/what-we-do/ECOSOC/tax-committee/tax-committee-home
Secretary: Michael Lennard

Purpose

The Committee of Experts is mandated to:

- Keep under review and update as necessary the UN Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, and the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries
- Provide a framework for dialogue with a view to enhancing and promoting international tax cooperation amongst national tax authorities
- Consider how new and emerging issues could affect international cooperation in tax matters and develop assessments, commentaries and appropriate recommendations
- Make recommendations on capacity-building and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition
- Give special attention to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in dealing with all the above issues.

Subcommittees are formed at the discretion of the Committee members. The Subcommittees for the July 2025–June 2029 membership terms are likely to be formed beginning in October 2025. For the July 2021–June 2025 term, the Committee established subcommittees on: the UN Model Tax Convention between Developed and Developing Countries; Transfer Pricing; Update of the UN Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties Between Developed and Developing Countries; Environmental Taxation Issues; the Relationship of Tax, Trade and Investment Agreements; Taxation of the Digitalized and Globalized Economy; Increasing Tax Transparency; Wealth and Solidarity Taxes; Health Taxes; Indirect Taxation; and Taxation of the Extractive Industries. The Committee has also established similar small groups on: Dispute Avoidance and Resolution; Taxation and Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); Digitalization and Improvement of Tax Administration; and Procedural Issues for the Committee. More information, including mandates, can be found on the website under 'Subcommittees'.

Evolution

The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries was established in 1968 (ECOSOC res. 1273 (XLIII) (1967)). Its purpose was to promote the conclusion of treaties between developed and developing countries that were acceptable to all parties and that would fully safeguard their respective revenue interests. In 1980, the Group finalized the UN Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, and it was given the title Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters. In 2004, it was renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (ECOSOC res. 2004/69).

Recent Tax Committee guidance publications (available on the website under 'Publications') include:

- 2023 UN Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties
- 2024 UN Handbook on Wealth and Solidarity Taxes
- 2024 Guidance on Transfer Pricing during the COVID-19 Economic Downturn
- 2024 Transfer Pricing Compliance Toolkit
- 2024 Guidance on Transfer Pricing: of Carbon Offsets and Carbon Credits; of Agriculture Products; in the Pharmaceutical Industry
- 2024 The Interaction of Carbon Taxation with other environmental measures: emissions trading and climate policy; Carbon Taxes and Carbon Offset Programs; Border Carbon Adjustments: Impact and Relevance for Developing Countries
- 2024 The Role of Carbon Taxes and other Measure to Support Energy Transition.

Meetings

Until 2015, the Committee met annually for five days in Geneva, usually in October. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), paragraph 29, as endorsed by the General Assembly (res. 69/313 of 27 July 2015) decided that the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters will meet twice a year instead of once, as was previously the case.

The Committee held its first meeting in New York in December 2016. Since 2017, meetings have taken place in New York in spring and in Geneva in autumn. The Committee's most recent meeting was the 30th session, held in New York from 24 to 27 March 2025, in conjunction with an ECOSOC Special Meeting on 28 March. Its 31st session is scheduled to be held in Geneva from 21 to 24 October 2025.

Membership

Originally 20, the number of members increased in 1980 to 25 (ECOSOC res. 2004/69). Members are nominated by governments and selected by the UN Secretary-General in consultation with Member States, taking into account equitable geographic distribution and representation from different tax systems (AAAA, paragraph 29). Members act in their expert capacities in tax policy and tax administration, not as country representatives, and serve four-year terms.

Members (25) July 2025 to June 2029

Angela Ang, Singapore
Jeneba Jackline Bangura, Sierra Leone
Hajara Batamuliza, Rwanda
Enrique Bolado Muñoz, Mexico
Neary Bun, Cambodia
Angie Clocheret, Belgium
Jorge Alberto Ferreras Gutiérrez, Spain
Mathew Olusanya Gbonjubola, Nigeria
Bhaskar Goswami, India
Antoine Guici, France
Wanjiru Kiarie, Kenya
Giedre Lideikyte Huber, Lithuania
Shaniece Lindsay, Jamaica

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Wanda Montero Cuello, Dominican Republic
Kapembwa Elizabeth Namuyemba-Sikombe, Zambia
Eamonn O'Dea, Ireland
Claudia Lucia Pimentel Martins da Silva, Brazil
Alvaro Romano, Uruguay
Gian Andrea Sandri, Switzerland
Alexander Smirnov, Russian Federation
Trude Steinnes Sønvisen, Norway
Darlingston Y Talery, Liberia
Hector Thompson, Australia
Mohamed Ali Waheed, Maldives
Yan Xiong, China

Committee for Development Policy (CDP)

Secretariat of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
405 East 42nd Street, Room S–2978
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: cdp@un.org

Website: https://cdp.un.org

Purpose

The Committee provides input and independent advice to ECOSOC on emerging cross-sectoral development issues and on international cooperation for development, focusing on medium- and long-term aspects. It is responsible for setting the criteria for the designation of least developed countries (LDCs), reviewing the list of LDCs every three years, and monitoring the development progress of countries graduating and graduated from the LDC category.

The list of LDCs was first established in 1971 and now consists of 44 states. Countries that have graduated from the LDC category are: Botswana (1994), Cabo Verde (2007), Maldives (2011), Samoa (2014), Equatorial Guinea (2017), Vanuatu (2020), Bhutan (2023) and São Tomé and Príncipe (2024). Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Nepal are scheduled to graduate in 2026, Solomon Islands in 2027, and Cambodia and Senegal in 2029.

List of LDCs

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
DR Congo
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Kiribati
Lao PDR
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tuvalu
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia

Evolution

ECOSOC res. 1035 (XXXVII) (1964) requested the Secretary-General consider the establishment of a group of experts in development planning theory and practice to work as a consultative body within the UN. ECOSOC res. 1079 (XXXIX) (1965) set out the functions of

this proposed group, which was appointed at the Council's 40th session and designated the Committee for Development Planning. ECOSOC res. 1625 (LI) (1971) enlarged the Committee from 18 to 24 members, with effect from 1 January 1972. Following an ECOSOC review of its subsidiary bodies, initiated by GA res. 50/227 (1996), the Committee was renamed in 1998 the Committee for Development Policy (ECOSOC res. 1998/46). The resolution also determined that ECOSOC should decide the work programme for the Committee, and that the Committee should continue three-yearly reviews of the status of LDCs and meet to discuss this issue once every three years.

ECOSOC res. 2004/66 and GA res. 59/209 re-emphasized the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from LDC status. In December 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (67/221) on smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of LDCs. The resolution clarifies several aspects of the process including the required actions by graduating countries and their development and trading partners, and the nature of support extended by the UN during this process. It also provides guidelines on the phasing out of some LDC-specific international support measures.

The Committee considers a country for graduation once it has met the criteria at two consecutive triennial reviews. ECOSOC, in turn, endorses the Committee's recommendation. Graduation becomes effective after a transition period set by the General Assembly when it takes note of ECOSOC's endorsement. During the three-year period, the graduating country, still an LDC, is invited to prepare and start implementing a transition strategy in cooperation with its development and trading partners, which are invited to consider extending LDC benefits or to reduce them in a phased manner after the country graduates from the category, to ensure a smooth transition. The Committee is mandated to monitor the development progress of graduating and recently graduated countries.

Meetings

The Committee meets annually, usually in March, for five working days.

Membership

Members serve in their individual capacities as experts and not as representatives of their own government. They are nominated by the UN Secretary-General and appointed by ECOSOC for a three-year term. Membership is geared to reflect a wide range of development experience as well as geographical and gender balance.

Members (24) 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2027

Sabina Alkire, USA
Carlos Alvarado, Costa Rica
Debapriya Bhattacharya, Bangladesh
Ha-Joon Chang, ROK
George Essegbey, Ghana
Ahmed Galal, Egypt
Arunabha Ghosh, India
Trudi Hartzenberg, South Africa
Jibrin Ibrahim, Nigeria
Anne-Laure Kiechel, France
Carlos Lopes, Guinea-Bissau
Nyovani Janet Madise, Malawi
Patricia Miranda, Bolivia
Keith Nurse, Trinidad and Tobago
José Antonio Ocampo Gaviria, Colombia
Izumi Ohno, Japan
Åsa Persson, Sweden
Cristelle Pratt, Fiji
Annalisa Prizzon, Italy
Taffere Tesfachew, Ethiopia
Kori Udovicki, Serbia
Rolph van der Hoeven, Netherlands
Natalya Volchkova, Russian Federation
Xufeng Zhu, China

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Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals

c/– UNECE
Sustainable Transport Division
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Email: unece_info@un.org

Website: https://unece.org/transport/dangerous-goods/ecosoc-bodies-dealing-chemicals-safety

Purpose

The main functions of the Committee are to:

- Approve work programmes for its sub-committees based on available resources
- Coordinate strategic and policy directions in areas of shared interests and overlap
- Give formal endorsement to the recommendations of the sub-committees and provide the mechanism for channelling these to ECOSOC
- Facilitate and coordinate the smooth running of the sub-committees.

The Committee was previously known as the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which was reconfigured and given its current name by ECOSOC res. 1999/65. The Committee has two specialized subsidiary bodies:

- Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee)
- Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee).

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) provides secretariat services to the Committee and its two sub-committees.

Meetings

The Committee meets once every two years, in even years, in Geneva.

Membership

The Committee comprises experts from 40 states. Other countries occasionally participate as observers, in accordance with rule 72 of the ECOSOC rules of procedure. The Committee Chair is designated at the beginning of each session from the TDG and GHS Chairs. Current practice is that designations are made on a rotational basis.

Members (40)

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Czechia
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
India
Iran
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
ROK
Russian Federation
Senegal
Serbia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Ukraine
UK
USA
Zambia

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG Sub-Committee)

Purpose

The Sub-Committee, established under ECOSOC res. 1989/104, develops recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods. These are updated every two years to take account of technical progress, the advent of new substances and materials, the requirements of modern transport systems and, above all, the requirement to ensure the safety of people, property and the environment. The recommendations are addressed to governments and international organizations concerned with regulating the transport of dangerous goods, including hazardous wastes and environmentally hazardous substances. The aim is to achieve uniformity across different modes of transport (road, rail, inland waterways, sea and air) and ensure the safety of transport without impeding the movement of goods.

The recommendations form the basis of much national legislation and of international instruments such as the:

- International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air
- Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)
- European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN)
- Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID).

The Sub-Committee has developed a comprehensive set of recommendations covering: listing, classification, marking and labelling; and also the use of packaging and tanks, their construction, testing and approval; training; consignment procedures including documentation; operational provisions; and security. They are grouped in the Model Regulations annexed to the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, also known as the 'Orange Book', and are updated every two years.

Evolution

The Sub-Committee initially replaced the Group of Experts on Explosives and Group of Rapporteurs, which were subsidiary bodies of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. In 1999 (ECOSOC res. 1999/65), the Sub-Committee replaced the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, which had been established under ECOSOC res. 468G (XV) (1953) to recommend and define groupings or classification of dangerous goods based on the risk involved. In ECOSOC res. 1999/65, the Committee of Experts was also renamed the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

Meetings

The Sub-Committee meets twice a year, in June/July and November/December, in Geneva.

Membership

The Sub-Committee comprises experts from 30 states. Other countries participate occasionally as observers in accordance with rule 72 of the ECOSOC rules of procedure.

Members (30)

Argentina	Brazil	Finland
Australia	Canada	France
Austria	China	Germany
Belgium (Vice-Chair 2025–26)	Czechia	India

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Iran
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
ROK
Russian Federation
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
UK
USA (Chair 2025–26)

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS Sub-Committee)

Purpose

The Sub-Committee was established under ECOSOC res. 1999/65 to give effect to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), also known as the 'Purple Book', developed by several organizations in the follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992) and Agenda 21, Chapter 19, Programme Area B. The Sub-Committee develops and updates the GHS recommendations, which aim to ensure that information on hazardous chemicals is available to enhance the protection of human life and the environment during handling, transport and use of these chemicals. The GHS recommendations also provide the basis for the harmonization of rules and regulations on chemicals at national and international level. They are applied worldwide and updated every two years.

The Sub-Committee's terms of reference are to:

- Act as custodian of the GHS, managing and giving direction to the harmonization process
- Keep the GHS up to date as necessary, considering the need for changes to ensure its continued relevance and practical utility
- Determine the need for, and timing of, the updating of technical criteria while working with existing bodies as appropriate
- Promote understanding and use of the GHS and encourage feedback
- Make the GHS available for worldwide use and application
- Make guidance available on the application of the GHS, and on the interpretation and use of technical criteria to support consistency of application
- Prepare work programmes and submit recommendations to the Committee.

Meetings

The Sub-Committee meets twice a year, in July and December, in Geneva.

Membership

The Sub-Committee comprises experts from 36 states. Other countries participate occasionally as observers, in accordance with rule 27 of the ECOSOC rules of procedure.

Members (36)

Argentina
Australia
Austria (Chair 2025–26)
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Czechia
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Iran
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
ROK
Russian Federation
Senegal
Serbia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Ukraine
UK
USA (Vice-Chair 2025–26)
Zambia

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cescr/pages/cescrindex.aspx

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges States Parties to report to ECOSOC on its implementation. ECOSOC has delegated consideration of such reports to the CESCR, which was established as an expert subsidiary body of ECOSOC by its res. 1985/17. An intergovernmental working group, established under decision 1978/10, had previously carried out these functions. A full CESCR entry is included in the 'Other Bodies' section, under 'Human rights treaty bodies', page 292.

Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–1726
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 2764
Email: dpidg@un.org

Website: https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/intergovernmental-support/cepa

Purpose

CEPA is responsible for supporting ECOSOC's work by providing expert policy advice and programmatic guidance on issues related to governance and public administration structures and processes for development. It assists the Council by reviewing trends, issues and priorities in public administration, notably in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in support of the implementation and progress reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CEPA was established by ECOSOC res. 2001/45, succeeding the Group of Experts on Public Administration, which was established in 1967 by ECOSOC res. 1199 (XLII).

Meetings

The Committee meets annually in New York for one week, usually in April.

Membership

The Committee comprises 24 members who serve in their personal capacity. They are nominated by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, and approved by ECOSOC. The membership is drawn from the inter-related fields of public economics, public administration and public finance, and reflects geographical and gender balance. Members serve four-year terms.

Members 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2029 (24)

Rolf Alter, Germany
Eduardo Araral, Philippines
Patricia Arriagada Villouta, Chile
Adeyemi Dipeolu, Nigeria
György Hajnal, Hungary
Anuradha Joshi, India
Aigul Kosherbayeva, Kazakhstan
Edward Maloka, South Africa
Helen Margetts, UK
Pamela Mbabazi, Uganda
Sarah Mecartney, Vanuatu
Pamela Monroe Ellis, Jamaica
Cristina Kiomi Mori, Brazil
Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Romania
Måns Nilsson, Sweden
Mauricio Rodas, Ecuador
Fadi Salem, Syrian AR
Henry Sardaryan, Russian Federation
Ozcan Saritas, Türkiye
Sherifa Fouad Sherif, Egypt

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Paul Smoke, USA
Aminata Touré, Senegal
Lorenzo Valeri, Italy
Lan Xue, China

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch
– Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
United Nations Secretariat, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: indigenous_un@un.org

Website: https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/unpfii

Purpose

The Permanent Forum is mandated to:

- Provide expert advice and recommendations on Indigenous issues relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights to ECOSOC, as well as to UN programmes, funds and agencies
- Raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to Indigenous issues within the UN system
- Prepare and disseminate information on Indigenous issues
- Promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Forum was established in 2000 as an advisory body to ECOSOC (res. 2000/22) and is one of three UN bodies mandated to deal specifically with Indigenous Peoples' issues. The others are the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (September 2007) provides the normative framework for implementing the Forum's mandate.

Meetings

The Forum meets annually for 10 days, usually in New York in April/May. Most recently, the 24th session was held from 21 April to 2 May 2025. States, UN bodies and organs, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, and Indigenous Peoples may participate in the Forum sessions as observers.

The Forum sessions are attended by approximately 1600 participants and provide an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples from around the world to enter into direct dialogue with Forum members, Member States, the UN system and civil society. The outcome of the session is a report containing analysis, recommendations and draft decisions for attention and adoption by ECOSOC.

Membership

The Forum consists of 16 independent experts, functioning in their personal capacities, who serve three-year terms (beginning 1 January) and may be re-elected or reappointed for one additional term. Eight members are nominated by governments and eight by Indigenous organizations in their regions. The government-nominated members are elected by ECOSOC and include representatives from each of the five UN regional groups. Each region has one seat, and the other three seats rotate in accordance with ECOSOC decision 2016/205.

The Indigenous organization-nominated members are appointed by the ECOSOC President and represent the seven socio-cultural regions determined to give broad representation to the world's Indigenous Peoples: Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the

Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific. The one additional seat rotates among the three first listed above.

Members (16) 2023–25*

Nominated by states

Vital Bambanze, Burundi (re-elected)

Tove Søvndahl Gant, Denmark (re-elected)

Ali Hajilari, Iran

Keith M Harper, USA

Li Nan, China

Suleiman Mamutov, Ukraine

Bornface Museke Mate, Namibia (re-elected)

Rodrigo Eduardo Paillalef Monnard, Chile

Nominated by Indigenous Peoples' organizations

Africa
Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Chad (re-elected)

Arctic
Aluki Kotierk, Canada (Chair)

Asia (2 seats for 2023–25)
Naw Ei Ei Min, Myanmar

Hanieh Moghani, Iran

Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia
Valentina Vyacheslavovna Sovkina, Russian Federation

Central and South America and the Caribbean
Dario José Mejía Montalvo, Colombia (re-elected)

North America
Geoffrey Scott Roth, USA (re-elected)

Pacific
Hannah McGlade, Australia (re-elected)

Note

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected seven members to serve a three-year term beginning 1 January 2026: Anne-Chantal Nama, Cameroon (African states); Li Nan, China (re-elected) (Asia–Pacific states); Valts Ernštreits, Latvia, and Suleiman Mamutov, Ukraine (re-elected) (Eastern European states); Rodrigo Eduardo Paillalef Monnard, Chile (re-elected), and Diego A Tituaña Matango, Ecuador (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Brenda Gunn, Canada (Western European and Other states). On 10 June 2025, ECOSOC elected Aili Keskitalo, Norway (Western European and Other states) for the same term. On 16 June 2025, the ECOSOC President announced the appointment of eight members nominated by Indigenous Peoples' Organizations for the same term: Amina Amharech, Morocco, Aluki Kotierk, Canada (re-elected), Patricia Gualinga Montalvo, Ecuador, Lea Nicholas-Mackenzie, Canada, Edward Porokwa, UR of Tanzania, Emma Rawson-Te Patu, New Zealand, Valentina Sovkina, Russian Federation (re-elected) and Jennifer Tauli Corpuz, Philippines.

UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)

UN Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–1670
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 4849
Email: geoinfo_unsd@un.org
X: @UNSD_GEGN

Website: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/

Purpose

UNGEGN emphasizes the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and demonstrates the benefits to be derived from such standardization. It promotes the recording of locally used names reflecting the languages and traditions of a country. UNGEGN's goal is for every country to decide on its own standardized names nationally through the creation of national authorities or recognized administrative processes. UNGEGN considers and reaches agreement on a romanization system for each non-Roman writing system for application to geographic names; develops standardization principles; and makes standardized geographical names available as practical information for as wide a user community as possible.

The Group was established by ECOSOC resolutions 715A (XXVII) (1959) and 1314 (XLIV) (1968), a decision taken by ECOSOC on 4 May 1973 and the decision E/2002/307 of 25 October 2002 to further the standardization of geographical names at national and international levels.

At the 11th UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in August 2017, the Conference decided that the UNCSGN and the UNGEGN be discontinued in their current formats and be subsumed by a subsidiary body of ECOSOC that will retain their respective mandates, where relevant, and that the UNGEGN will convene biennial sessions, in principle, over a period of five days, beginning in 2019, with the full authority to set its strategic direction. The creation of the new UNGEGN was approved on 10 November 2017 in ECOSOC res. 2018/2.

Meetings

The new UNGEGN held its first biennial session in New York from 29 April to 3 May 2019 and implemented its new method of work. The 2021 session was held from 3 to 7 May using a virtual platform, and its most recent session took place from 28 April to 2 May 2025. The next session is scheduled to take place in New York from 3 to 7 May 2027.

Membership

UNGEGN is composed of representatives of Member States who may be experts and advisors with specific knowledge drawn from the inter-related fields of geography, cartography, geospatial information, linguistics and history. Intergovernmental organizations and other entities accorded observer status by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or continuing basis by ECOSOC may be represented at the meetings of the Group and may participate without the right to vote. A person with specialized knowledge of particular aspects of the standardization of geographical names may be invited by the Group to place before the Group that specialized knowledge. UNGEGN consists of 24 linguistic–geographical divisions, nine working groups and two task teams.

Bureau (2023–27)

Chair
Pierre Jaillard, France

Vice-Chairs
Sungjae Choo, ROK
Wendy Shaw, New Zealand

Rapporteurs
Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende, Brazil
Majdi Hamed AlHarbi, Saudi Arabia

UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)

UN Statistics Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–1670
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 4849
Email: ggim@un.org
X: @UNGGIM

Website: https://ggim.un.org

Purpose

UN-GGIM was established by ECOSOC in July 2011 (res. 2011/24) as the UN intergovernmental mechanism for making joint decisions and setting directions with regard to the production, availability and application of geospatial information within national, regional and global policy frameworks. ECOSOC res. 2016/27 broadened and strengthened the mandate of the

Committee of Experts, stressing the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, and to report to ECOSOC under the agenda item 'Geospatial Information'. ECOSOC res. 2022/24 enhanced the institutional arrangements of the Committee of Experts as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC in charge of all matters related to geospatial information, geography, land administration and related topics.

UN-GGIM plays a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information management, and promotes the availability, accessibility and application of integrated geospatial information to address key national and global challenges. It provides a forum for Member States and international organizations to exchange knowledge and experiences, set directions, and make joint decisions on enhanced collaboration in integrated geospatial information management within national and global policy frameworks. The Committee of Experts is mandated to provide a platform for the development of effective frameworks and strategies to develop and strengthen national capacity in geospatial information management.

The secretariat for the Committee of Experts is situated in the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and is supported by the Geospatial Information Section of the Operational Support Division, Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT).

Meetings

The Committee meets at least annually. Its 15th session was scheduled to take place from 6 to 8 August 2025 in New York. Under exceptional circumstances, it may hold additional meetings as appropriate. Its inaugural session was held in 2011 in Seoul, ROK, in conjunction with the first High-level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management. Annual sessions are open to all UN Member States and entities invited by the Committee to participate in the session as observers. The UN system, academic and research institutions, private sector entities and international organizations invited by the Committee participate as observers.

Membership

The Committee comprises experts designated by governments of all UN Member States, with specific knowledge of geospatial information management and its many inter-related fields of geospatial sciences, geomatics, surveying, geography, land administration, geodesy, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, hydrography and oceanography, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental sciences. The Committee is served by a bureau composed of up to three co-chairs and a rapporteur who are elected during each session from among its members, respecting geographical balance and representation.

Bureau (14th session, August 2024 to August 2025)

Co-Chairs

Deirdre Dalpiaz Bishop, USA

Fernand Eanes Bale, Côte d'Ivoire

Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Belgium

Rapporteur

Meizyanne Hicks, Fiji

OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES

UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)

New York Office
United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–0610
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 8138
Email: ceb@un.org

Geneva Office
Palais des Nations
W-60, Building H
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 3276

Website: www.unsceb.org
Secretary of CEB and Director of CEB Secretariat: Maaike Jansen, Netherlands (based in New York)

Purpose

CEB is the longest-standing and highest-level coordination forum of the UN system, and the principal inter-agency instrument for supporting and reinforcing the coordination role of the UN intergovernmental bodies on social, economic and related matters.

CEB is composed of the Executive Heads of the 31 UN system organizations and is chaired by the UN Secretary-General. It is supported by two high-level committees: the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM). The Board and its high-level committees aim to advance cooperation and coherence among UN system organizations (specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and other related organizations) in policy, programme and management areas through a coordinated approach on issues of system-wide concern. Specific thematic issues are the subject of inter-agency networks that are not formally subsidiary bodies of CEB but retain a relationship with it and its high-level committees. CEB succeeded the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in 2001, which had been established by ECOSOC res. 13 (III) (1946).

Meetings

The CEB meets twice a year, usually in May and November. The November meetings are typically held in New York.

Member organizations (31)

United Nations (UN)
UN International Labour Organization (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Bank Group (WBG)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
World Trade Organization (WTO)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
UN Development Programme (UNDP)
UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Food Programme (WFP)
UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)
UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM)

Palais des Nations
W-60, Building H
CH–1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 3276
Email: ceb@un.org

Website: www.unsceb.org/content/hlcm
Secretary: Remo Lalli, Italy

Purpose

HLCM is the principal mechanism for inter-agency coordination and policy coherence in the administration and management areas, particularly regarding financial and budgetary matters, human resources, digital and technology matters, procurement and staff safety and security issues within the UN system on behalf of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

Priority items on the HLCM agenda include:

- Identification, promotion and coordination of management reforms that will improve services, achieve productivity improvements and increase efficiency and effectiveness across the UN system
- Promotion of digital transformation in UN system organizations, and development and coordination of transformative digital business solutions that have the potential to streamline business processes at large scale
- Accountability and transparency
- Supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requirement for quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data
- Compilation and publication of UN system-wide statistics on personnel, financial resources and procurement
- Coordination of financial management practices and policies
- Harmonization of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure and service delivery
- Representation of UN system organizations in coordinating with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) on issues related to the management of the common system of pay and benefits
- Enhancing efficiency and transparency of procurement processes
- Fostering the safety, security, health and well-being of UN system personnel
- Strengthening risk management capacity and tools.

HLCM is also responsible for maintaining dialogue with staff representatives on concerns of a system-wide nature. It interacts with Member States in the General Assembly's Fifth Committee and Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), as well as with other intergovernmental bodies, the ICSC and Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).

Meetings

HLCM meets twice a year. It undertakes consultation and coordination on a continuing basis between sessions as required.

Membership

HLCM is composed of senior representatives of the CEB member organizations responsible for management and administration (and authorized to take decisions on behalf of their executive heads). The Chair is Catherine Pollard, Guyana, Under-Secretary-General from the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC); and the Vice-Chair is Kelly Clements, USA, the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees.

High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)

2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–0610
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 8138
Email: ceb@un.org

Website: www.unsceb.org/content/hlcp
Acting Secretary: Xenia von Lilien-Waldau, Germany

Purpose

HLCP is the principal mechanism for UN system-wide coordination and policy coherence in the programme area. Its main functions are to advise the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on strategic planning, policy and programme matters of system-wide importance; and to foster inter-agency cooperation and coordination on these matters on behalf of the CEB.

HLCP's mandate includes:

- Fostering policy coherence and programme coordination in response to intergovernmental mandates and in support of the implementation and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcomes of other UN conferences and summits
- Supporting integrated and coordinated preparation of and follow-up to major UN conferences and summits
- Scanning for and identifying emerging programme issues requiring a system-wide response with a view to developing common approaches, strategies and frameworks, and shared positions and messages, to address emerging issues of challenges facing the UN system
- Serving as a forum for inter-agency dialogue, consultations and knowledge-sharing on the policy development and programme dimensions of matters of UN system-wide concern.

Meetings

HLCP meets twice a year. It undertakes consultation and coordination on a continuing basis between sessions as required.

Membership

HLCP is composed of senior representatives of the CEB member organizations responsible for policy and programme matters (and authorized to take decisions on behalf of their executive heads). The Chair is Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Website: www.un.org/en/about-us/trusteeship-council

The Trusteeship Council was set up under Chapters XII and XIII of the UN Charter to ensure that the Non-Self-Governing Territories were administered in the best interests of their people and of international peace and security.

The Council's role was originally to consider reports submitted by the administering authority of the trust territory, accept petitions and examine them in consultation with the administering authority, provide for periodic visits to the territory and take other actions in conformity with the trusteeship agreements.

The Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994, one month after the last remaining UN trust territory, Palau, became independent. With the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands terminated by SC res. 956 (1994), and Palau's admission as the 185th member of the UN in December 1994, the Trusteeship Council completed the task entrusted to it under the Charter with respect to the last of the 11 territories that had been placed under the Trusteeship System. The Council amended its rules of procedure (res. 2200 (LXI) (1994)) to meet only as and where occasion might require.

The former Secretary-General recommended in both his 1994 report on the work of the Organization and his 2005 report In Larger Freedom that the General Assembly proceed with steps to eliminate the Trusteeship Council in accordance with Article 108 of the Charter. World leaders endorsed this recommendation at the 2005 World Summit and recorded in the Outcome Document their agreement to delete Chapter XIII of the Charter and references to the Council in Chapter XII.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (ICJ)

Peace Palace
Carnegieplein 2
2517 KJ The Hague
The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 70 302 2323
Email: information@icj-cij.org
X: @cij_icj

Website: www.icj-cij.org
Registrar: Philippe Gautier, Belgium (elected for a seven-year term from August 2019)
Deputy-Registrar: Jean-Pelé Fomété, Cameroon (since March 2013; re-elected for a second seven-year term from April 2020)

Purpose

The ICJ is the UN's principal judicial organ. It was established in June 1945 by the UN Charter and began work in April 1946. Its Statute is an integral part of the UN Charter.

The Court's functions are twofold. First, it settles, in accordance with international law, legal disputes that are submitted to it by states. Pursuant to Article 38, para. 1, of its Statute, the Court applies:

- International conventions establishing rules expressly recognized by the contesting states
- International custom, as evidence of a general practice accepted as law
- The general principles of law recognized by civilized nations
- Judicial decisions and the teachings of the most highly qualified international law experts as subsidiary means for the determination of rules of law.

Second, the Court gives advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by the General Assembly, Security Council or other organs of the UN and specialized agencies that are authorized by the General Assembly to request them.

The Charter provisions concerning the Court are contained in Chapter XIV (Articles 92–96). Article 34, para. 1 of the Statute of the Court provides that only states may be parties to contentious cases before the Court. States entitled to appear before the Court fall into three categories:

- States members of the UN (Article 93, para. 1 of the Charter provides that all UN members are parties to the Statute)
- States not members of the UN that are parties to the Statute (Article 93, para. 2 of the Charter). Conditions are to be determined in each case by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council
- States not parties to the Statute to which the Court is open (Article 35, para. 2 of the Statute). The conditions upon which the Court is open to such states were laid down in SC res. 9 (1946).

Structure

Under Article 21, para. 2 of its Statute, the Court appoints its own officers. The Court elects its Registrar and Deputy-Registrar by secret ballot. Terms are for seven years and may be renewed. In accordance with Article 26, para. 3 of the Rules of Court, the Registrar is responsible to the Court in the discharge of his or her functions.

The Court comprises 15 members, no two of whom may be nationals of the same state. Candidates are nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration or by national groups appointed for this purpose (Article 4 of the Statute).

The UN Secretary-General draws up a list of candidates nominated. From this list, the General Assembly and the Security Council, voting independently, elect the Members of the Court. An absolute majority in both the General Assembly and the Security Council is required for election. Members of the Court are elected for a term of nine years and may be re-elected. Under Article 9 of the Statute, at every election, the electors shall bear in mind not only that the persons to be elected should individually possess the qualifications required, but also that in the body as a whole the representation of the main forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems of the world should be assured. The terms of five (one-third) of the judges expire every three years. The most recent triennial elections were held in November 2023, for the current term of 6 February 2024 to 5 February 2033.

The conditions under which a state that is a party to the Statute of the Court, but not a member of the UN, may participate in the election of judges were laid down on the recommendation of the Security Council by GA res. 264 (III) (1948).

The President and Vice-President are elected by the Members of the Court by secret ballot every three years and may be re-elected. The election of the President and Vice-President is held on the date on which Members of the Court elected at a triennial election are to begin their terms of office or shortly after. An absolute majority is required. There are no conditions with regard to nationality.

Members of the Court (15)

Listed in order of precedence; terms end on 5 February of the year shown. More detail is available on the website.

President

Yuji Iwasawa, Japan ..... 2030[1]

Vice-President

Julia Sebutinde, Uganda 2030

Judges

Peter Tomka, Slovakia 2030
Ronny Abraham, France 2027
Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, Somalia ..... 2027[2]
Xue Hanquin, China 2030
Dalveer Bhandari, India 2027
Georg Nolte, Germany 2030
Hilary Charlesworth, Australia 2033
Leonardo Nemer Caldeira Brant, Brazil ..... 2027[3]
Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Mexico 2033
Sarah H Cleveland, USA 2033
Bogdan-Lucian Aurescu, Romania 2033
Dire Tladi, South Africa 2033
Mahmoud Daifallah Al-Hmoud, Jordan ..... 2027[4]

Notes

1 Elected on 3 March 2025 to serve as President of the Court for the remainder of the term ending February 2027, after Judge Nawaf Salam, Lebanon, resigned from the Court effective 14 January 2025.

2 On 11 June 2025, Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, Somalia, informed the President of the ICJ of his resignation as a member of the Court, effective 30 September 2025. On 2 July 2025, the Security Council decided that the election to fill the vacancy will take place on 12 November 2025 (SC res. 2784 (2025)).

3 Elected on 4 November 2022, to serve the remainder of the term ending 2027, after Judge Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade, Brazil, passed away on 29 May 2022.

4 Elected on 27 May 2025, to serve the remainder of the term ending 2027, after Judge Nawaf Salam, Lebanon, resigned effective 14 January 2025.

SECRETARIAT

SECRETARIAT

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Website: www.un.org/en/about-us/secretariat

CHARTER PROVISIONS

The Secretariat, which is headed by the UN Secretary-General, is one of the six principal organs of the UN. The main Charter provisions concerning the Secretariat are contained in Chapter XV (Articles 97–101). Other provisions concerning the Secretariat and the Secretary-General are in Articles 7, 12, 20, 73, 102 and 110.

STRUCTURE AND OFFICERS

Secretaries-General

António Guterres: Portugal, installed 1 January 2017

Ban Ki-moon: Republic of Korea, installed 1 January 2007

Kofi Annan: Ghana, installed 1 January 1997

Boutros Boutros-Ghali: Egypt, installed 1 January 1992

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar: Peru, installed 1 January 1982

Kurt Waldheim: Austria, installed 1 January 1972

U Thant: Burma (now Myanmar), installed 3 November 1961

Dag Hammarskjöld: Sweden, installed 10 April 1953 (died in office 18 September 1961)

Trygve Lie: Norway, installed 2 February 1946

Deputy Secretaries-General

Amina J Mohammed: Nigeria, appointed 1 January 2017

Jan Eliasson: Sweden, 2012–16

Asha-Rose Migiro: UR of Tanzania, 2007–12

Mark Malloch Brown: UK, 2006

Louise Fréchette: Canada, 1998–2006

Departments and Offices

The Secretariat major organizational units listed below are each headed by an official appointed by and accountable to the Secretary-General. More detailed information about the work of individual units is listed later in this chapter.

Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

Website: www.un.org/sg and
www.un.org/sg/en/global-leadership/executive-office-of-the-secretary-general

Chef de Cabinet: E Courtenay Rattray, Jamaica (appointed in December 2021)

Under-Secretary-General for Policy: Guy Ryder, UK (appointed in October 2022)

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Website: www.un.org/en/desa

Under-Secretary-General: Li Junhua, China (appointed in July 2022)

Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development: Navid Hanif, Pakistan (appointed in June 2022)

Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination: Bjørg Sandkjær, Norway (appointed in February 2025)

Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM)

Website: www.un.org/dgacm/

Under-Secretary-General: Movses Abelian, Armenia (appointed in June 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General: Cherith Norman Chalet, USA (appointed in March 2021)

Department of Global Communications (DGC)

Website: www.un.org/en/department-global-communications

Under-Secretary-General: Melissa Fleming, USA (appointed in September 2019)

Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC)

Website: www.un.org/management/

Under-Secretary-General: Catherine Pollard, Guyana (appointed in June 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, Controller: Chandramouli Ramanathan, India (appointed in February 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management: Martha Helena Lopez, Colombia (appointed in July 2017)

Assistant Secretary-General, Chief Information Technology Officer: Bernardo Mariano Junior, Mozambique (appointed in June 2021)

Department of Operational Support (DOS)

Website: https://operationalsupport.un.org/en

Under-Secretary-General: Atul Khare, India (appointed in January 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General for Support Operations: Lisa M Buttenheim, USA (appointed in January 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management: AnneMarie van den Berg, Netherlands (appointed in April 2023)

Assistant Secretary-General for Information and Communications Technology: Bernardo Mariano Junior, Mozambique (appointed in June 2021)

Department of Peace Operations (DPO)

Website: https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/department-of-peace-operations

Under-Secretary-General: Jean-Pierre Lacroix, France (appointed in April 2017)

Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions: Alexandre Zouev, Russian Federation (appointed in April 2017)

Assistant Secretary-General, Acting Military Adviser: Major General Cheryl Pearce, Australia (appointed Deputy Military Adviser in January 2024)

UN Police Adviser: Faisal Shahkar, Pakistan (appointed in October 2022)

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Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Website: https://dppa.un.org/en

Under-Secretary-General: Rosemary A DiCarlo, USA (appointed in March 2018)

Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support: Elizabeth Spehar, Canada (appointed in January 2022)

DPO/DPPA shared positions

Assistant Secretary-General for Africa: Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Ghana (appointed in May 2021)

Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas: Miroslav Jenča, Slovakia (appointed in March 2015)

Assistant Secretary-General for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific: Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Tunisia (appointed in May 2019)

Development Coordination Office (DCO)

Website: https://un-dco.org

Assistant Secretary-General: Oscar Fernández-Taranco, Argentina (appointed in November 2022)

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Website: www.unocha.org

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Emergency Relief Coordinator: Tom Fletcher, UK (appointed in October 2024)

Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator: Joyce Msuya, UR of Tanzania (appointed in December 2021)

Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)

Website: www.un.org/digital-emerging-technologies/

Under-Secretary-General, Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies: Amandeep Singh Gill, India (appointed in January 2025)

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Website: www.ohchr.org

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Volker Türk, Austria (appointed in September 2022)

Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights: Nada Al-Nashif, Jordan (appointed in December 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Head of the New York Office of OHCHR: Ilze Brands Kehris, Latvia (appointed in December 2019)

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

Website: https://oios.un.org

Under-Secretary-General: Fatoumata Ndiaye, Senegal (appointed in October 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General: Benjamin Swanson, UK (appointed in July 2021)

Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)

Website: www.un.org/ola/

Under-Secretary-General, Legal Counsel: Elinor Jane Britt Hammarskjöld, Sweden (appointed in December 2024)

Assistant Secretary-General: Stephen D Mathias, USA (appointed in September 2010)

UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

Website: www.un.org/en/safety-and-security

Under-Secretary-General: Gilles Michaud, Canada (appointed in May 2019)

Assistant Secretary-General: Unaisi Lutu Vuniwaqa, Fiji (appointed in November 2021)

UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

Website: www.un.org/counterterrorism/

Under-Secretary-General: Vladimir Voronkov, Russian Federation (appointed in June 2017)

UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Website: https://disarmament.unoda.org

Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs: Izumi Nakamitsu, Japan (appointed in March 2017)

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Website: www.undrr.org

Assistant Secretary-General, Special Representative: Kamal Kishore, India (appointed in March 2024)

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Website: www.unodc.org

Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director: Ghada Fathi Waly, Egypt (appointed in November 2019)

UN Youth Office

Website: www.un.org/youthaffairs/en

Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs: Felipe Paullier, Uruguay (appointed in October 2023)

UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

Website: www.ungeneva.org/en

Under-Secretary-General, Director-General: Tatiana Valovaya, Russian Federation (appointed in May 2019)

UN Office at Nairobi (UNON)

Website: www.unon.org

Under-Secretary-General, Director-General: Zainab Hawa Bangura, Sierra Leone (appointed in December 2019)

UN Office at Vienna (UNOV)

Website: www.unov.org

Under-Secretary-General, Director-General: Ghada Fathi Waly, Egypt (appointed in November 2019)

UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Website: www.unoosa.org

Director: Aarti Holla-Maini, UK (since September 2023; appointed on 26 June 2023)

Special and Personal Representatives, Envoys and Advisers of the Secretary-General

Website: www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments
and www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/senior-officials

Africa

Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)

Cristina Duarte, Cabo Verde
(appointed 2 July 2020)

Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU)

Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Gabon
(appointed 22 February 2022)

Special Representative and Head of the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)

Abdou Abarry, Niger
(appointed 28 July 2022)

Special Representative for the Central African Republic and Head, UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

Valentine Rugwabiza, Rwanda
(appointed 23 February 2022)

Deputy Special Representative and Deputy Head of Mission, MINUSCA

Joanne Adamson, UK
(appointed 1 July 2023)

Deputy Special Representative Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UN Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, MINUSCA

Mohamed Ag Ayoya, Mali
(appointed 21 November 2022)

Special Representative for DR Congo, Head of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in DR Congo (MONUSCO)

Bintou Keita, Guinea
(appointed 14 January 2021)

Deputy Special Representative for DR Congo, Protection and Operations, MONUSCO

Vivian van de Perre, Netherlands
(appointed 27 February 2024)

Deputy Special Representative for DR Congo, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative, MONUSCO

Bruno Lemarquis, France
(appointed 18 January 2022)

Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa

Huang Xia, China
(appointed 22 January 2019)

Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa

Guang Cong, China
(appointed 17 July 2025)

Special Representative for Libya and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)

Hanna Serwaa Tetteh, Ghana
(appointed 22 January 2025)

Deputy Special Representative (Political), UNSMIL

Stephanie Koury, USA
(appointed 1 March 2024)

Deputy Special Representative and Resident Coordinator, UNSMIL

Ingeborg Ulrika Ulfsdotter Richardson, Sweden
(appointed 8 August 2025)

Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS)

James Swan, USA
(appointed 28 March 2025)

Deputy Special Representative (Political), UNTMIS

Raisedon Zenenga, Zimbabwe
(appointed 26 January 2024)

Deputy Special Representative Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, UNTMIS

George Conway, Canada
(appointed 18 August 2023)

Special Representative for South Sudan and Head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

Nicholas Haysom, South Africa
(appointed 15 January 2021)

Deputy Special Representative (Political), UNMISS

Guang Cong, China
(appointed 24 March 2020)

Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, UNMISS

Anita Kiki Gbeho, Ghana
(appointed 8 December 2023)

Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)

Major General Robert Yaw Affram, Ghana
(since July 2024)

Personal Envoy for Sudan

Ramtane Lamamra, Algeria
(appointed 21 November 2023)

Special Representative for West Africa and Head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)

Leonardo Santos Simão, Mozambique
(appointed 2 May 2023)

Deputy Special Representative, UNOWAS

Barrie Freeman, USA
(appointed 10 May 2024)

Special Representative for Western Sahara and Head of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)

Alexander Ivanko, Russian Federation
(appointed 27 August 2021)

Personal Envoy for Western Sahara

Staffan de Mistura, Italy
(appointed 6 October 2021)

Americas

Special Representative for Colombia and Head of UN Verification Mission in Colombia

Appointment pending

Deputy Special Representative for Colombia and Deputy Head of Verification Mission

Raúl Rosende, Uruguay
(appointed 15 March 2022)

Special Representative for Haiti and Head of UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)

Carlos G Ruiz Massieu, Mexico
(appointed 3 July 2025)

Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, BINUH

Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Mexico
(appointed 10 December 2018)

Asia and the Pacific

Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Roza Otunbayeva, Kyrgyzstan
(appointed 2 September 2022)

Deputy Special Representative (Political), UNAMA

Georgette Gagnon, Canada
(appointed 3 September 2024)

Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, UNAMA

Indrika Ratwatte, Sri Lanka
(appointed 7 November 2023)

Personal Envoy on Afghanistan and Regional Issues

Jean Arnault, France
(appointed 18 March 2021)

Special Representative and Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

Kaha Imnadze, Georgia
(appointed 14 June 2023)

Deputy Head and Senior Political Affairs Officer, UNRCCA

Philipp Saprykin, Russian Federation
(appointed 14 November 2016)

continued next page

Chief Military Observer and Head of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

Major General Ramón Guardado Sánchez, Mexico (appointed 13 November 2024)

Europe

Special Representative in Cyprus and Head of UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

Colin Stewart, Canada (appointed 4 November 2021)

Special Representative and Head of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)

Caroline Ziadeh, Lebanon (appointed 19 November 2021)

Special Envoy on Myanmar

Julie Bishop, Australia (appointed 5 April 2024)

Deputy Special Representative, UNMIK

Milbert Dongjoon Shin, USA (appointed 24 July 2024)

UN Representative to the Geneva International Discussions (UNRGID)

Ayşe Cihan Sultanoğlu, Türkiye (appointed 6 July 2018)

Middle East

Deputy Special Coordinator and Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO); Officer-in-Charge of UNSCO

Ramiz Alakbarov, Azerbaijan (appointed 13 June 2025)

Head of the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Palestine

Major General Patrick Gauchat, Switzerland (appointed 28 October 2021)

Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Mohamed al Hassan, Oman (appointed 15 July 2024)

Deputy Special Representative (Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance), UNAMI

Claudio Cordone, Italy (appointed 11 July 2022)

Deputy Special Representative (Development and Humanitarian Support), Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UNAMI

Ghulam Mohammad Isaczai, Afghanistan (appointed 19 July 2022)

Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)

Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Netherlands (appointed 20 May 2024)

Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, UNSCOL

Imran Riza, Pakistan (appointed 1 September 2022)

Head of Mission and Force Commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

Major General Diodato Abagnara, Italy (appointed 4 June 2025)

Deputy Head of Mission, UNIFIL

Hervé Lecoq, France (appointed 8 May 2023

Special Envoy for the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (concerning Lebanon)

Reporting functions fulfilled by Under-Secretary-General, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Special Envoy for Syria

Geir O Pedersen, Norway (appointed 31 October 2018)

Deputy Special Envoy for Syria

Najat Rochdi, Morocco
(appointed 29 June 2022)

Head of Mission and Force Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (Syrian Golan)

Major General Anita Asmah, Ghana
(appointed 11 December 2024)

Special Envoy for Yemen

Hans Grundberg, Sweden
(appointed 6 August 2021)

Acting Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC) and Officer-in-Charge of the UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA)

Mari Yamashita, Japan
(appointed Deputy Head of Mission 23 May 2024)

Other High-Level Appointments

Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia

Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Spain
(appointed 20 November 2018/7 May 2025)

Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, Argentina
(appointed 12 April 2017)

Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Climate Action and Just Transition

Selwin Hart, Barbados
(appointed 4 February 2020)

Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions

Michael Bloomberg, USA
(appointed 5 March 2018)

Special Envoy on Climate Change

Robert Orr, USA
(appointed 27 August 2014)

Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility

María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Chile
(appointed 20 June 2017)

Assistant Secretary-General, Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Kamal Kishore, India
(appointed 27 March 2024)

Special Envoy for Global Education

Gordon Brown, UK
(appointed 13 July 2012)

Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Mahmoud Mohieldin, Egypt
(appointed 4 February 2020)

Special Advocate for Financial Health

Her Majesty Queen Máxima, Netherlands
(appointed 25 September 2024)

Special Envoy on Innovative Finance and Sustainable Investments

Hiro Mizuno, Japan
(appointed 30 December 2020)

Chair of the Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)

Carol Roach, Bahamas
(appointed in 2024)

Special Envoy for the Ocean

Peter Thomson, Fiji
(appointed 12 September 2017)

Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

Chaloka Beyani, Zambia
(appointed 22 August 2025)

Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect

Mô Bleeker, Switzerland
(appointed 5 March 2024)

Special Envoy for Road Safety

Jean Todt, France
(appointed 29 April 2015)

Special Adviser on Human Security

Yukio Takasu, Japan
(appointed 8 May 2017)

continued next page

Special Coordinator on Improving UN Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Christian Saunders, UK
(appointed 15 July 2022)

Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Pramila Patten, Mauritius
(appointed 12 April 2017)

Special Envoy on South–South Cooperation

Jorge Chediek, Argentina
(appointed 21 March 2016)

Co-Chairs of the SDG Advocates

Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

Justin Trudeau, former Prime Minister of Canada
(both appointed 6 April 2022)

Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All

Damilola Ogunbiyi, Nigeria
(appointed 29 October 2019)

Special Representative for the UN International School (UNIS)

Lisa M Buttenheim, USA
(designated in September 2021)

Assistant Secretary-General, Victims' Rights Advocate

Najla Nassif Palma, Brazil
(appointed 4 March 2024)

Special Representative on Violence Against Children

Najat Maalla M'jid, Morocco
(appointed 30 May 2019)

High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation

(appointed 13 September 2017 unless otherwise indicated)

Radhika Coomaraswamy, Sri Lanka

Leymah Gbowee, Liberia

Jean-Mari Guéhenno, France

Tarja Halonen, Finland

David Harland, New Zealand

Noeleen Heyzer, Singapore

Nasser Judeh, Jordan

Ramtane Lamamra, Algeria

Graça Machel, Mozambique

Asha-Rose Migiro, UR of Tanzania

Raden Mohammad Marty Muliana Natalegawa, Indonesia

Olusegun Obasanjo, Nigeria

Roza Otunbayeva, Kyrgyzstan

Michèle Pierre-Louis, Haiti

Gert Rosenthal, Guatemala

Sima Samar, Afghanistan
(appointed 18 January 2019)

Juan Gabriel Valdés, Chile
(appointed 18 January 2019)

Justin Welby, UK

SECRETARIAT OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS

OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS IN NEW YORK

Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Website: www.un.org/sg
Secretary-General: António Guterres, Portugal (since January 2017)
Deputy Secretary-General: Amina J Mohammed, Nigeria (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2017)
Chef de Cabinet: E Courtenay Rattray, Jamaica (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in December 2021)

Purpose

EOSG provides assistance to the UN Secretary-General in the establishment of general policy, in the executive direction, coordination and expeditious performance of the Secretariat's

work and of the programmes and other elements of the Organization, and in contacts with governments, delegations, the press and the public. It provides further assistance to the Secretary-General in strategic planning, the preparation of the annual report on the work of the Organization and the annual report on rule of law, political, economic and inter-agency affairs, liaison and representation functions, and the fulfilment of the priorities and mandates set out by the General Assembly.

Structure

The Secretary-General is the Organization's chief administrative officer. The Charter also requires the Secretary-General to perform other functions as are entrusted by the main UN organs, as well as to "bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security".

The Secretary-General may also use the 'good offices' of the position – the value of its independence, impartiality and integrity – in order to prevent or resolve international disputes. (See UN Charter, Chapter XV, Articles 97 to 101.)

The Secretary-General chairs the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), which twice a year brings together the executive heads of all UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

The CEB is the UN system's longest-standing and highest-level coordination forum, and was established as a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council. While not a policy-making body, the CEB supports and reinforces the coordinating role of UN system intergovernmental bodies on social, economic and related matters. Most importantly, the CEB facilitates the UN system's collective response to global challenges, such as climate change and financial crisis.

Committees support the executive decision-making process in the Secretariat by enabling an exchange of advice and guidance between the Secretary-General and members of his or her senior management team on issues of a strategic or policy nature. The main committees are the:

- Senior Management Group: functions as a forum for the exchange of information and activities among heads of UN departments, offices, funds and programmes. The Secretary-General may use the Senior Management Group to raise and provide guidance on important cross-cutting issues (see www.un.org/sg/en/content/senior-management-group).
- Executive Committee: a cabinet-style decision-making body. Its main purpose is to assist the Secretary-General in taking decisions on issues of strategic importance that require principal-level attention across all pillars of the UN's work. These include country situations and thematic priorities.
- Management Committee: considers internal reform and management-related initiatives and issues, including change management processes requiring strategic direction from the Secretary-General. It also ensures that findings and recommendations of the Board of Auditors, Joint Inspection Unit and Office of Internal Oversight Services are effectively fed into the executive management processes and that accepted recommendations are followed up and implemented in a timely manner.
- Management Performance Board: undertakes an advisory role to the Secretary-General. Its main functions include monitoring the performance of senior managers and heads of UN field missions. The Board also reviews the outcome of the administration of justice proceedings in the Secretariat for management performance and accountability purposes, with a particular focus on UN Dispute Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal judgments, so as to identify and make recommendations to address systemic problems. In addition, it conducts yearly reviews of the performance appraisal system within the UN Secretariat to ensure Secretariat-wide consistency in its application.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Facebook: www.facebook.com/joinundesa
X: @UNDESA
LinkedIn: https://bit.ly/UNDESA_LinkedIn

Website: www.un.org/desa/
Under-Secretary-General: Li Junhua, China (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2022)

Purpose

UN DESA upholds the development pillar of the United Nations and is a vital interface between global policies and national action in the economic, social and environmental spheres. UN DESA is mandated with supporting deliberations in two major UN Charter bodies: the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies, forums and other entities. In this regard, UN DESA's main activities focus on promoting progress towards development priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UN DESA is also responsible for ensuring civil society engagement with the UN by way of ECOSOC.

UN DESA's work falls into three main categories:

- Norm-setting by providing substantive support to UN Charter bodies and facilitating major global conferences and summits related to the SDGs
- Monitoring and analysing social, economic and environmental trends, prospects and policies, to provide forward-looking guidance and recommendations for shaping effective development policy and practice
- Supporting capacity development in policy formulation and implementation as well as data collection and application to translate internationally agreed commitments, standards, policies and programmes into action on the ground, especially for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In executing these functions, UN DESA helps governments and other stakeholders take integrated and networked approaches to decision-making, organizing and supporting consultations with a range of stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

Each July, UN DESA hosts the secretariat for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the central platform within the UN system for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. The Department also coordinates the process of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and manages the database of all VNR reports submitted by Member States.

Structure

UN DESA's work areas are managed by the following divisions and offices: Office of the Under-Secretary-General; Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development; Division for Inclusive Social Development; Division for Sustainable Development Goals; Statistics Division; Population Division; Economic Analysis and Policy Division; Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government; Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests; Financing for Sustainable Development Office; Capacity Development Programme Management Office; and Executive Office.

Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Email: DGACM-Feedback@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNDGACM.en and www.facebook.com/UNDGACM.fr
X: @UNDGACM_EN, @UNDGACM_AR, @UNDGACM_CH, @UNDGACM_ES, @UNDGACM_FR, @UNDGACM_RU
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/undgacm

Website: www.un.org/dgacm (available in the six UN official languages)
Under-Secretary-General: Movses Abelian, Armenia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2019)

Purpose

DGACM provides comprehensive support for conferences and meetings. It provides procedural and technical secretariat support and advice to facilitate deliberations and follow-up actions of the: General Assembly and its General Committee, the First (Disarmament and International Security) Committee, the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee, the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee and the Fourth (Special Political and Decolonization) Committee; the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and most of the Council's subsidiary, ad hoc and expert bodies; and special UN conferences and expert groups dealing with disarmament, international security, and economic, social and related matters.

DGACM also assists in the revitalization efforts of the General Assembly and other UN bodies, including by providing substantive services to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly. It is responsible for the provision of meetings and document management services to intergovernmental bodies, including conference planning and organization; preparation of the UN calendar of conferences and meetings; and provision of conference room facilities and other services, including interpretation, editing and translation services, verbatim reporting, production editing, editorial and desktop publishing and digital publishing in the organization's six official languages. Some documents are also translated into German, funded by extra-budgetary resources. The Under-Secretary-General is also the Secretariat-wide Coordinator for Multilingualism with terms of reference outlined in A/71/757 (see GA res. 71/328). The UN Strategic Framework on Multilingualism, which reaffirms the Organization's commitment to multilingualism as a core value, was launched in 2024 in the official languages, under the Coordinator's direction.

The Department provides policy guidance with regard to conference-related resources under the authority of the Directors-General of the UN Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. While the Department is responsible for the implementation of policy, the formulation of standards and guidelines, overseeing and coordinating UN conference services and the overall management of resources under the relevant budget section, the Offices remain responsible and accountable for day-to-day operational activities (see GA res. 57/283 B).

Structure

The Department consists of the following organizational units in New York: Office of the Under-Secretary-General; Central Planning and Coordination Division; Documentation Division; General Assembly and ECOSOC Affairs Division; Meetings and Publishing Division; Protocol and Liaison Service; Global Innovation and Data Analytics Service; and Executive Office. The units at the other three duty stations are: Division of Conference Management in Geneva; Conference Management Service in Vienna; and Division of Conference Services in Nairobi. An organizational chart is published on the Department's website.

Department of Global Communications (DGC)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unitednations
X: @UN
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/unitednations
Instagram: @unitednations
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations
Threads: @unitednations
WhatsApp: United Nations

Website: www.un.org/department-global-communications/
Under-Secretary-General: Melissa Fleming, USA (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2019)

Purpose

DGC, previously known as the Department of Public Information (DPI), was established in 1946 to inform global audiences about the state of the world and build support for the organization's work and goals. Through impactful and innovative communications, DGC reaches millions of people with trusted, objective information in many languages and across multiple platforms.

Structure

The Department comprises three divisions:

- The Campaigns and Country Operations Division delivers global communications campaigns that support the organization's priorities. It also manages the global network of United Nations Information Centres. (See unic.un.org.)
- The News and Media Division produces and distributes to broadcasters and global audiences multilingual, multimedia news and features on UN priority issues. It also provides media accreditation services, photos, live television feeds, webcast and real-time coverage of intergovernmental meetings, and audiovisual collections documenting the UN's history.
- The Outreach Division builds support for the UN by fostering dialogue with global constituencies such as civil society, the entertainment and creative industries media, academia, publishers, educators, youth, students and libraries.

Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC)

405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 8227
Email: dmspc-ousg@un.org

Website: www.un.org/management/
Under-Secretary-General: Catherine Pollard, Guyana (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2019; assumed role in September 2019)

Purpose

The Department provides policy leadership in all management areas through the provision of an integrated global management strategy and policy framework and through strengthened monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms. It oversees and is responsible for: facilitating deliberations and decision-making by the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC); intergovernmental and inter-agency relations, and outreach on management-related topics and initiatives; internal administration of justice; programme planning, finance and budget; human resources policy and strategy; business transformation and accountability; the enterprise resource planning solution; information and communications technology; and addressing racism and racial discrimination.

Structure

DMSPC offices and divisions include: Office of the Under-Secretary-General; Office of Programme Planning, Finance and Budget; Office of Human Resources; Business Transformation and Accountability Division; Enterprise Resource Planning Solution Division; Office of Information and Communications Technology; and Anti-Racism Office. The Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of Information and Communications Technology reports to both the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Operational Support (DOS) and the Under-Secretary-General of DMSPC.

Department of Operational Support (DOS)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsOperationalSupport
X: @UN_OpSupport
Instagram: @unoperationalsupport

Website: https://operationalsupport.un.org/en
Under-Secretary-General: Atul Khare, India (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2019)

Purpose

The Department of Operational Support (DOS) provides operational support to UN Secretariat entities globally, including advisory, operational and transactional support services and, where needed, exercises delegated authority on behalf of clients. DOS supports the entire UN Secretariat, consisting of almost 100 entities located around the globe.

DOS is built on five key pillars. It provides end-to-end service delivery and integration of operational support in:

- Human resources, training, health-care management and occupational safety and health
- Supply chain management including aviation, logistics, procurement and support for uniformed capabilities
- Operational planning, support partnerships, resource planning and support to start-up, surge, draw-down and liquidation in UN Secretariat entities
- UN Headquarters administrative services and campus support
- Operational information and communications technology (ICT).

DOS became operational on 1 January 2019 as part of the Secretary-General's Management Reform.

Structure

In addition to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, DOS consists of three offices (Support Operations, including human resources, health-care management and capacity-building; Supply Chain Management; Information and Communications Technology) and two divisions (the Division for Special Activities and the Division of Administration New York). The Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of Information and Communications Technology reports to both the Under-Secretary-General of DOS and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC).

Approximately 1200 civilian staff and military-seconded personnel work in UN Operational Support, supporting operations globally. Global operational functions, including centralized support for technology, logistics and other specialized services, are concentrated at the Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy and Valencia, Spain. Most administrative location-independent functions, including standard back-office services for finance and human resource management, are centralized in a Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, as well as the Joint Support Office in Kuwait. The Global Procurement Support Section (GPSS) supports regional procurement from Entebbe, Uganda, whereas Headquarter-based entities are supported through the Headquarters Client Support Service in the Division of Administration. Only location-dependent functions that must be provided on the ground are maintained in field missions.

Department of Peace Operations (DPO)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

X: @Lacroix_UN

Website: https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/department-of-peace-operations
Under-Secretary-General: Jean-Pierre Lacroix, France (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in April 2017)

Purpose

DPO provides political and executive direction to UN peacekeeping operations around the world, and maintains contact with the Security Council, troop and financial contributors, and parties to the conflict in the implementation of Security Council mandates. It works to integrate the efforts of the UN system, governmental and non-governmental entities in the context of peacekeeping operations. DPO also provides guidance and support on military, police, mine action and other relevant issues to UN political and peacebuilding missions.

DPO was formally created in 1992 as the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) but traces its roots back to 1948 with the creation of the first UN peacekeeping operations.

As at 28 February 2025, there were more than 68,000 military, police and civilian personnel serving with 11 peacekeeping operations. As at 1 July 2025, the peacekeeping operations overseen by DPO are, with start years:

- UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), 1948
- UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), 1949
- UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), 1964
- UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), 1974
- UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), 1978
- UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), 1991
- UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), 1999
- UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (prior to 1 July 2010, named the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)), 1999
- UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), 2011
- UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), 2011
- UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), 2014.

Structure

The three main DPO offices are: Military Affairs; Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI); and Policy Evaluation and Training Division. In addition, DPO shares with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) eight regional divisions, managed by three Assistant Secretaries-General, that cover the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Department of Peace Operations
Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions
2 United Nations Plaza, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 5682
Email: DirectorUNMAS@un.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsMineActionService
X: @UNMAS
Instagram: @un_mineaction
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-mine-action-service
YouTube: www.youtube.com/unmineaction

Website: www.unmas.org
Director: Ilene Cohn, USA (appointed June 2022)

Purpose

Established in 1997, UNMAS works to eliminate the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices by coordinating UN mine action, leading operational responses at the country level, and supporting peace operations, as well as the development of standards, policies and norms. As a specialized service located within the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), it operates under UN legislative mandates of both the General Assembly and the Security Council. UNMAS also responds to specific requests for support from the UN Secretary-General or designated officials.

UNMAS chairs the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA) and its subsidiary groups (as mandated in GA res. 72/75 and SC res. 2365 (2017)). It is also the global lead for the Mine Action Area of Responsibility within the Global Protection Cluster and Chair of the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) Review Board and its Steering Committee, and leads the UN Coordinating Task Force on a Whole-of-System Approach to Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

UNMAS has a small team at its New York headquarters, a humanitarian hub in Geneva and approximately 3000 staff in the field. As at July 2025, UNMAS provided direct support and technical assistance to mine-action programmes in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Cyprus, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sudan/South Sudan–Abyei (UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)), Syria, Ukraine, the Territory of Western Sahara (UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)) and Yemen.

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

X: @UNDPPA

Website: https://dppa.un.org/en
Under-Secretary-General: Rosemary A DiCarlo, USA (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2018)

Purpose

DPPA monitors and assesses global political developments with an eye to detecting potential crises before they erupt and devising effective responses. The Department provides support to the Secretary-General and his envoys, as well as to UN political missions deployed around the world to help defuse crises or promote lasting solutions to conflict.

DPPA was established on 1 January 2019 as part of the reform of the UN peace and security pillar. It brought together the former Department of Political Affairs (DPA), which was created in 1992, and the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). As part of this reform, DPA and the former Department of Peacekeeping Operations (now the Department of Peace Operations, or DPO) also merged their previously parallel regional divisions to create a single structure to provide more coherent political analysis and strategic advice in the support of prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding after conflict.

DPPA focuses primarily on five areas in international peace and security:

- Ensuring sound analysis and early warning
- Preventing conflict and engaging in peacemaking
- Managing political crises and violent conflicts
- Sustaining peace
- Enhancing partnerships.

The PBSO within DPPA fosters international support for nationally owned and led peacebuilding efforts.

As at 1 July 2025, DPPA oversees 37 special political missions, comprising envoys of the Secretary-General, sanctions monitoring teams, as well as regional offices and offices in support of the political process. This includes the following political and peacebuilding support offices, with start years:

- Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), 1994
- UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), 2002
- UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), 2002
- UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), 2003
- UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), 2007
- Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), 2007
- UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), 2011
- UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), 2011
- UN Verification Mission in Colombia, 2017
- UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA), 2019
- UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), 2019
- UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS), 2024.

DPPA manages the offices of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, the Personal Envoys of the Secretary-General for the Sudan and Western Sahara, and the Special Envoys of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, the Sudan, the Syrian AR, Yemen, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. It also oversees the the UN representative to the Geneva International Discussions and the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU), as well as UN support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission.

The Department coordinates UN electoral assistance activities and provides substantive and secretariat support for the Security Council. It also supports two standing committees established by the General Assembly: the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Special Committee on Decolonization.

Structure

The Department is headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. The common regional pillar it shares with the DPO covers Africa; the Americas; Europe; Asia and Pacific; and the Middle East. The Department's functional or thematic responsibilities are covered by divisions for Electoral Assistance; Policy and Mediation; Palestinian Rights; Security Council Affairs; and Decolonization.

UN Development Coordination Office (DCO)

UN Secretariat Building
405 East 42nd Street, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: DCOcommunications@un.org

Website: https://un-dco.org
Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination: Oscar Fernández-Taranco, Argentina
(appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2022)

Established in 2019 following GA res. 72/279 (2018), DCO serves as the secretariat for the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) – 38 agencies, funds and programmes working on development – at the regional and global levels. DCO provides technical and advisory support to the UN development system, supporting resource mobilization for system-wide financing priorities and facilitating inter-agency programmatic and policy collaboration and partnership for achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

DCO coordinates and manages the Resident Coordinator system, providing substantive guidance and support to Resident Coordinators and 130 UN country teams covering 162 countries and territories, in addition to daily backstopping to Resident Coordinator Offices on the ground. At the regional level, five DCO Regional Directors and their teams in Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Istanbul and Panama provide Resident Coordinators with regional-specific support, with a secretariat role for the UNSDG. DCO also provides troubleshooting, quality assurance and dispute resolution services in close cooperation with the relevant regional teams of the UNSDG.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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New York, NY 10017
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Telephone: +1 212 963 1234

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 1234

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNOCHA
X: @unocha, @UNReliefChief

Email: please use the contact form on www.unocha.org
Website: www.unocha.org
Under-Secretary-General: Tom Fletcher, UK (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in October 2024)

Purpose

OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. It helps humanitarian organizations do this in four ways: assembles support; alerts and informs; advocates for solutions; and raises funds for the response. As the central hub for humanitarian information and analysis, OCHA is the first to inform humanitarian organizations about a humanitarian crisis. OCHA brings international and national partners together to respond to a crisis. It provides the tools and services to aid organizations to help the most vulnerable affected people, and it helps aid organizations understand and navigate the complex challenges they often face during a response operation. OCHA campaigns for the rights of people affected by a crisis, and it ensures that aid organizations have the funds and resources they need to respond during a crisis.

OCHA ensures more responsive, predictable and strategic humanitarian financing through the OCHA-managed Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs). The pooled funds allow governments and private donors to pool their contributions into common, unearmarked funds to deliver life-saving assistance to people who need it most. CERF can fund an emergency anywhere in the world, and the CBPFs are country specific.

OCHA was created in 1998 as part of the Secretary-General's Reform Programme. It replaced the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which was created in 1991.

Structure

The head of OCHA is the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, who is also the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). The General Assembly created the ERC position in its resolution 46/182 (1991). The ERC is the principal adviser to the Secretary-General on humanitarian issues, and also:

- Holds responsibility for the oversight of all emergencies requiring UN humanitarian assistance
- Acts as the central focal point for governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental relief activities
- Processes requests from Member States for emergency aid
- Mobilizes international emergency-relief capacity
- Negotiates access to populations who need assistance
- Chairs the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- Manages the worldwide network of Humanitarian Coordinators
- Promotes the smooth transition from relief to recovery.

OCHA's Headquarters focuses primarily on support to the country and regional offices, information management, advocacy, humanitarian financing, policy and communications and outreach with Member States, regional organizations and emerging partners. It works directly with the Security Council, Economic and Social Council, General Assembly and other UN organs. The Geneva office manages partnerships, resource mobilization, inter-agency coordination, emergency preparedness and response tools and mechanisms, and provides programme support to the country and regional offices. OCHA also has five regional offices, seven liaison offices, and 27 country offices throughout the world.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

Geneva Office
Palais des Nations,
H building, 4th Floor
8–14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

New York Liaison Office
2 United Nations Plaza
323 East 44th Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 5592

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsofIASC
X: @iascch
Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/company/inter-agency-standing-committee-iasc

Email: iasccorrespondence@un.org
Website: www.interagencystandingcommittee.org
Chair: Tom Fletcher, UK (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in October 2024)

Purpose

Created by the General Assembly in 1991 through its resolution 46/182, the IASC is the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the UN system. It brings together 19 Principals of UN and non-UN entities to coordinate and harmonize the global humanitarian response, and set priorities for strengthened humanitarian action. This includes coordination of system-wide efforts in operational response, advocacy and policy formulation. The IASC facilitates the leadership role of the UN Secretary-General by meeting regularly to ensure better preparation for, as well as rapid and coherent response to, humanitarian crises. It is chaired by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). The IASC defines global strategic priorities on a regular basis, and regularly reviews the IASC structures so that they are fit for purpose. The five IASC priorities are: operational response; accountability and inclusion; collective advocacy; humanitarian–development collaboration and its linkages to peace; and humanitarian financing.

Structure

The ERC is both the Chair of the IASC and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The IASC is composed of the IASC Principals, the executive heads of the IASC organizations. They are supported in delivering their priorities by subsidiary bodies. The Deputies Group serves as a critical platform for dialogue and decision-making to drive forward progress on key strategic issues as tasked by the IASC Principals. It comprises representatives at the level of Deputy Executive Head/Assistant Secretary-General or equivalent.

The Emergency Directors Group (EDG), the Emergency Directors of the IASC members, advises and follows up on strategic and operational issues requiring urgent collective action, system-wide resource mobilization and/or targeted field support to sustain or scale up a given humanitarian response. It is composed of representatives from IASC member organizations, partners and observers. The Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) drives the normative and strategic policy work of the IASC, including on system-wide policy matters with a direct bearing on humanitarian operations. It consists of Emergency or Policy Director-level representatives.

The formal IASC structures are supported by technical structures that are created to drive specific workstreams. These structures are time bound and regularly reviewed. There are currently five 'Entities Associated with the IASC' supporting the work of the IASC: the Inter-

Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group, the Global Cluster Coordination Group, the Humanitarian Programme Cycle Steering Group, the Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action and the Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. More information is available on the website.

Meetings

The IASC regularly convenes to ensure preparedness and a rapid and coordinated humanitarian response. As part of the Humanitarian Reset, it prioritizes virtual meetings. The IASC Principals meet in person twice a year, with the addition of ad hoc meetings in response to urgent or pressing humanitarian issues. The IASC Deputies Group and OPAG convene on an as-needed basis. The EDG meets on an ad hoc basis in response to emerging and ongoing crises, and for an extended meeting once a year to review global humanitarian operations and assess the performance of Humanitarian Coordinators.

Membership

IASC Principals are the heads of the IASC's full members and Standing Invitees. IASC full members are the UN organizations listed below. The IASC Standing Invitees are the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and the World Bank. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) consortia International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), InterAction and the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) are also invited on a permanent basis to attend. They are each joined by two operational NGO representatives at each of the IASC structures and at the OPAG and Task Force levels by an additional two local NGOs.

The Chair of the IASC may also invite, on an ad hoc basis, representatives of other specialized organizations. Non-members are invited systematically to contribute to the work carried out by the various structures to ensure the inclusion of critical expertise to contribute to IASC efforts.

Members

Chair

Tom Fletcher, UK, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Full members

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General

Sima Sami Bahous, Jordan, UN-Women Executive Director

Filippo Grandi, Italy, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Diene Keita, Guinea, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director

Cindy McCain, USA, World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director

Joyce Msuya, UR of Tanzania, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

Amy Pope, USA, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Director General

Qu Dongyu, China, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General

Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, Brazil, UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Executive Director

Catherine Russell, USA, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director

Volker Türk, Austria, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Haoliang Xu, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Acting Administrator

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Standing invitees

Jagan Chapagain, Nepal, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretary General

Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, Switzerland, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President

Paula Gaviria Betancur, Colombia, Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

Tom Hart, USA, InterAction President and CEO

Nimo Hassan, Somalia, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) Board Chair (Director, Somali NGO Consortium)

Abby Maxman, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) Chair (President and CEO, Oxfam)

James Munn, Norway, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) Executive Director

Gareth Price-Jones, UK, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) Executive Secretary (Senior Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, Care International)

Janti Soeripto, Indonesia/Netherlands, Save the Children President and CEO

Anna Bjerde, Sweden, World Bank Managing Director for Operations

Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)

405 East 45th Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: Please use the contact form on the website
X: @odet_un
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/unodet
Bluesky: @unodet.bsky.social

Website: www.un.org/digital-emerging-technologies/
Under-Secretary-General, Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies: Amandeep Singh Gill, India (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in January 2025)

Purpose

On 24 December 2024, following the adoption of the Global Digital Compact at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, the UN General Assembly decided to transition the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology into a new UN Office (GA res. 79/258). The establishment of ODET on 1 January 2025 reflects the growing importance of a coordinated, inclusive and multistakeholder approach to the governance of technologies anchored in the UN Charter, human rights, and the sustainable development agenda.

ODET helps the UN address the opportunities and challenges posed by today's rapidly evolving technological landscape. It acts across five strategic areas to:

- Serve as advocate and focal point for digital cooperation in the UN for Member States and stakeholders
- Facilitate inclusive, multistakeholder policy dialogue on digital and emerging technologies
- Advise senior UN leadership on key technology trends so as to guide the strategic approach taken by the Organization on such issues
- Strengthen system-wide coordination within and across the UN system on digital and emerging technologies
- Support the follow-up and implementation of the Global Digital Compact, including its decisions on global cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI) governance.

The third UN Open Source Week took place in May 2025. Co-hosted by ODET and the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT), this event facilitates global dialogue and collaboration on open source, digital public infrastructure (DPI), and the development of innovative solutions to global challenges.

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

UN Secretariat Building
405 East 42nd Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Fax: +1 212 963 7010
Email: feedback2oios@un.org

Website: http://oios.un.org/

Under-Secretary-General: Fatoumata Ndiaye, Senegal (appointed by the UN Secretary-General for a five-year term from October 2019; appointment extended in August 2024 for a further two years, until 24 October 2026)

Purpose

The Office is the UN's internal oversight body. Established in 1994 by the General Assembly, the Office assists the Secretary-General in fulfilling his or her oversight responsibilities in respect of the organization's resources and staff through the provision of audit, inspection and evaluation, and investigation services.

The Office is mandated to provide oversight coverage of all UN activities under the Secretary-General's authority, including: the UN Secretariat in New York, Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna; five regional commissions; peacekeeping missions; special political missions; humanitarian operations; and funds and programmes administered separately under the authority of the Secretary-General (including the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)). The Office also provides oversight services to other UN entities such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF).

The Office issues around 500 reports each year and makes recommendations aimed at improving governance, risk management and control processes and organizational efficiency and effectiveness. It submits its reports to the Secretary-General, or a delegated programme manager, or directly to the General Assembly. Member States' access to all OIOS reports, subject to certain exceptions, was significantly expanded following the adoption of GA res. 59/272 in 2004. GA res. 67/258 (2013) also approved the publishing of OIOS audit reports on the OIOS website on an experimental basis, later made permanent by GA res. 69/253 (2014), which also expanded it to include OIOS evaluation reports, effective 1 January 2015.

Structure

The Office is organized into the following functional units:

- Internal Audit Division: assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls for the purpose of improving the organization's risk management, control and governance processes
- Inspection and Evaluation Division: assesses the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness (including impact) of the organization's programmes in relation to its objectives and mandates
- Investigations Division: establishes facts related to suspected or reported misconduct, fraud or other irregularities to guide the Secretary-General on jurisdictional or disciplinary action to be taken.

The Office may also provide support and advice to management on the effective discharge of their responsibilities and on the implementation of recommendations, and also facilitates self-evaluation by programme managers through appropriate methodological support.

The Office is headed by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, who is appointed by the Secretary-General, following consultations with Member States and approval by the General Assembly, for one five-year term without the possibility of renewal.

Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)

Telephone: +1 212 963 5338

Website: www.un.org/ola/
Under-Secretary-General and United Nations Legal Counsel: Elinor Jane Britt Hammarskjöld, Sweden (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in December 2024)

Purpose

OLA was established by GA res. 13 (I) (1946) to provide a unified central legal service for the Secretariat and organs of the UN. It provides secretariat functions to UN bodies, including the General Assembly's Sixth Committee, the International Law Commission and the UN Commission on International Trade Law.

OLA also provides legal services for UN offices, funds and programmes, and special political missions, peacekeeping operations and other field missions on issues, including respect for privileges and immunities and the legal status of the organization. It provides legal advice on cooperation with international or internationalized judicial accountability mechanisms.

OLA discharges the Secretariat's responsibilities under Article 102 of the UN Charter regarding the registration and publication of treaties, and the Secretary-General's responsibilities as the depository for multilateral conventions. It also contributes to the development and codification of international public and trade law and assists in its teaching, study and dissemination. It prepares the Repertory of Practice of UN Organs (a record of the General Assembly procedural practice) and other legal publications.

In addition, OLA's objectives include promoting the strengthening, development and effective implementation of the international legal order for the seas and oceans, as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982). It provides information and assistance to states on law of the sea and ocean affairs; monitors and reports on related developments, services institutions and intergovernmental and expert bodies as mandated by the Convention and the General Assembly; and fulfils capacity-building functions.

In its resolution 68/70 (2013), the General Assembly identified the UN Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea as the focal point of UN-Oceans, an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination of competent UN organizations and the International Seabed Authority. In its resolution 77/321 (2023), the General Assembly approved the assumption by the Secretary-General of the functions assigned to him under the Agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), including the depository functions and the performance, through the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the OLA, of the secretariat functions under the Agreement until such time as the secretariat to be established under the Agreement commences its functions. Pursuant to GA res. 78/272, OLA, in cooperation with other relevant departments of the Secretariat, also supports the Preparatory Commission for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement.

Structure

The Office of the Under-Secretary-General coordinates the work of OLA's six substantive units: Office of the Legal Counsel; General Legal Division; Codification Division; Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; International Trade Law Division; and Treaty Section.

UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS)

UN Secretariat Building, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Website: www.un.org/undss/
Under-Secretary-General: Gilles Michaud, Canada (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2019)

Purpose

UNDSS is responsible for strengthening the UN Security Management System (UNSMS) by enabling the safest and most efficient conduct of the programmes and activities of the UN within acceptable levels of security risk and by providing leadership, operational support and oversight to the System. The Department is composed of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security; the Division of Field Operations; the Division of Partnerships and Specialized Support; and the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services. UNDSS maintains offices in more than 125 countries.

Evolution

The Department was established by GA res. 59/276 of 23 December 2004, following the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and unifying the UN security management (A/59/365). This also resulted in the merger of the security management component of the previous Office of the UN Security Coordinator with the Security and Safety Services at headquarters and at offices away from headquarters (including the regional commissions).

UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

United Nations Headquarters
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: oct-info@un.org
X: @UN_OCT
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/unoct/

Website: www.un.org/counterterrorism/
Under-Secretary-General: Vladimir Voronkov, Russian Federation (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2017)

Purpose

UNOCT was established through the adoption of GA res. 71/291 on 15 June 2017. This resolution endorsed the competencies and functions of the Office set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the capability of the UN system to assist Member States in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858). The creation of the Office is considered the first major institutional reform undertaken by Secretary-General António Guterres in the UN peace and security pillar.

UNOCT has five main functions:

- To provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from the UN system
- To enhance coordination and coherence across the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
- To strengthen the delivery of UN counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States
- To improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts
- To ensure that due priority is given to counter-terrorism across the UN system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism is firmly rooted in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Structure

UNOCT is the main policy, coordination and capacity-building entity on counter-terrorism mandated by the General Assembly. It is led by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, supported by the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (OUSG), who is responsible for its programme of work and concurrently serves as the Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), as well as Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. UNOCT implements its policy leadership and coordination mandate with the support of its Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB). The Office provides capacity-building support to Member States, in partnership with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, and other relevant counter-terrorism actors, through the UNCCT, established in 2011 by GA res. 66/10, and the Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB). UNOCT has a dedicated Human Rights and Gender Section (HRGS) to support the integration of human rights and gender equality across the Office's work and to enhance collaboration with civil society.

In February 2018, the Secretary-General signed the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact with the heads of 36 UN entities plus the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to strengthen coordination and coherence to support Member States' efforts to prevent and counter terrorism. The Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact is supported by a Coordination Committee that oversees eight thematic Inter-Agency Working Groups addressing key counter-terrorism priorities of Member States in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. As of July 2025, the Counter-Terrorism Compact brings together 46 entities, including 42 UN entities as well as INTERPOL, WCO, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

United Nations Headquarters
405 East 42nd Street, Room S-3024
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 2411
Fax: +1 212 963 4066
Email: unoda-web@un.org

Website: www.un.org/disarmament

Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs: Izumi Nakamitsu, Japan (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2017; took office in May 2017)

Purpose

Originally established in 1982, the Office for Disarmament Affairs replaced the Department of Disarmament Affairs in 2007. The Office:

- Promotes the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and the strengthening of the disarmament regimes for weapons of mass destruction and chemical and biological weapons
- Promotes the limitation and reduction of conventional weapons, including the illicit trade in small arms, and the elimination of inhumane weapons, including land mines and cluster munitions
- Supports disarmament through the work of the General Assembly and its First Committee, the UN Disarmament Commission, Conference on Disarmament and other bodies
- Promotes transparency and confidence-building on military matters, and encourages regional disarmament efforts
- Provides information and education on the UN's multilateral disarmament efforts
- Supports efforts such as the collection, control and disposal of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, coupled with restraint over the production and procurement as well as transfers of such arms; demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; demining; and other disarmament-related activities for the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in areas that have suffered from conflict

- Monitors and analyses the risks and implications posed by scientific and technological advances and developments of new weapon technology in order to understand their impact on existing international normative, institutional and policy frameworks.

Structure

The Office has five sub-programmes:

- Conference on Disarmament Secretariat and Conference Support (Geneva)
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Conventional Arms
- Information and Outreach
- Regional Disarmament.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs is based in New York, with a branch in Geneva and a Vienna office, as well as three regional centres: the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) in Lomé, Togo; the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) in Kathmandu, Nepal; and the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC) in Lima, Peru.

The Geneva branch also provides implementation support for the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Dedicated Implementation Support Units provide substantive and administrative support; facilitate communication among States Parties and organizations; and promote universalization and other activities to support the treaties. The Office's Science, Technology and International Security Unit works on the identification and analysis of emerging issues, including developments in science and technology, and their impacts on international security.

UN Youth Office

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United States of America
Email: youthaffairs@un.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNYouthAffairs
X: @UNYouthAffairs
Instagram: @unyouthaffairs
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/un-youth-affairs/

Website: www.un.org/youthaffairs
Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs: Felipe Paullier, Uruguay (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in October 2023)

Purpose

The UN Youth Office was established by the General Assembly to lead the engagement and advocacy for the advancement of youth issues across the UN and to promote the meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the work of the UN (GA res. 76/306 (2022).

Following the recommendation in the Secretary-General's groundbreaking report 'Our Common Agenda', Member States unanimously agreed to the establishment of the UN Youth Office as a dedicated entity for youth affairs within the Secretariat, building upon more than a decade of work led by the Secretary-General's Envoys on Youth, and marking a pivotal breakthrough for the revitalization and expansion of the UN's engagement with and for youth.

The UN Youth Office champions the rights, perspectives, contributions and potential of young people everywhere. Under the umbrella of Youth2030, the UN system-wide strategy on youth, the Office leads efforts to enhance collaboration, coordination and accountability on youth affairs, ensuring that the UN works effectively and inclusively with young people in all their diversity. By fostering meaningful, inclusive and impactful participation of youth in decision-

making processes, the UN Youth Office empowers young people as agents of transformative change in addressing global challenges in the areas of sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian action.

OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS IN GENEVA

See also Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), page 223, and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), page 224.

UN Office at Geneva (UNOG)

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Switzerland
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNGeneva/
X: @UNGeneva
Instagram: @ungeneva
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/ungeneva
YouTube: @UNGenevaChannel

Website: www.ungeneva.org/en
Under-Secretary-General, Director-General: Tatiana Valovaya, Russian Federation (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2019)

Housed at the Palais des Nations, UNOG serves as the representative office of the Secretary-General at Geneva. A focal point for multilateral diplomacy, UNOG services around 8000 meetings per year, making it one of the busiest conference centres in the world. With more than 1300 staff, UNOG is the biggest duty station of the UN Secretariat outside of headquarters in New York.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 9220
Fax: +41 22 917 9012
Email: ohchr-InfoDesk@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org
High Commissioner: Volker Türk, Austria (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2022)

Purpose

The OHCHR is the principal UN Office mandated to promote and protect the human rights of all people. It also serves as the Secretariat to the Human Rights Council and provides assistance to the system of Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review system. The Office also services the core human rights treaty bodies.

The creation of a High Commissioner for Human Rights was agreed at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993. GA res. 48/141 (1993) established the post to promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all people of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development. It further held that the High Commissioner should function as the UN official with principal responsibility for global human rights efforts. The High Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, with regard to geographical rotation. Appointments are for a fixed term of four years, with the possibility of one renewal.

Structure

OHCHR is based in Geneva. It has an office in New York plus 18 country or stand-alone offices, 13 regional offices or centres, nine human rights components in UN peace or political missions, and 43 human rights advisers embedded in UN country teams and human rights mainstreaming projects. More detailed information is available on the website.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

7bis Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 8907

Email: undrr@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNISDR/
X: @UNDRR

Website: www.undrr.org and www.preventionweb.net

Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction: Kamal Kishore, India (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2024; took up position in May 2024)

Purpose

UNDRR was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It is mandated to serve as the focal point in the UN system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the UN system and regional organizations, as well as activities in the socio-economic and humanitarian fields (GA res. 56/195 (2001)) to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks and to strengthen resilience.

UNDRR supports the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted by the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. This includes reviewing progress, most recently with the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, where the Political Declaration was adopted by the General Assembly in May 2023 (GA res. 77/289). The Sendai Framework guides countries on how best to manage their risks to protect their people and economies from disasters, which is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDRR also leads a number of inter-agency efforts, including the 'UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience' and the Early Warnings for All initiative (with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as co-lead). It also hosts the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage (with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)), and builds local government capacities through the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.

UNDRR mobilizes a broad range of stakeholders in the development of national plans and local disaster risk reduction strategies. These stakeholders include parliamentarians, the private sector, the science community, civil society organizations and others. It convenes the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, established in 2006 (GA res. 61/198). The Global Platform (GP) is the main global forum for disaster risk reduction and for the provision of strategic and coherent guidance for the implementation of the Sendai Framework and sharing of experience among stakeholders. The eighth session of the GP took place in June 2025 in Geneva.

UNDRR leads on global advocacy campaigns around the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October and World Tsunami Awareness Day on 5 November and produces the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR) every three years.

Structure

UNDRR is led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, assisted by the UNDRR Director. It is funded by voluntary contributions through the UN Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction.

The Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland. It has regional offices and other presences in Africa, Americas and the Caribbean, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia, as well as a liaison office in New York.

OFFICE IN NAIROBI

UN Office at Nairobi (UNON)

UN Avenue, Gigiri
P.O. Box 67578 (00200)
Nairobi
Kenya

Website: www.unon.org

Under-Secretary-General, Director-General: Zainab Hawa Bangura, Sierra Leone (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in December 2019)

UNON is the only UN headquarter office in Africa and the global south and serves as the representative office of the UN Secretary-General in Kenya. UNON provides administrative and other support services to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Resident Coordination System (RCS) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) globally in 166 countries. UNON also provides joint and common services to other organizations of the UN System in Kenya. Home to diverse fauna and flora in a rich environmental ecosystem, UNON sits on 140-acres of land, the largest of any UN compound in the world.

OFFICES IN VIENNA

UN Office at Vienna (UNOV)

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNVienna/

X: @UN_Vienna
Instagram: @unitednationsvienna
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-office-for-outer-space-affairs

Website: www.unvienna.org
Under-Secretary-General, Director-General: Ghada Fathi Waly, Egypt (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2019)

UNOV provides administrative support including conference planning, security and language interpretation to UN programmes. The Director-General of UNOV represents the Secretary-General in dealings with the host country and diplomatic missions in Vienna.

The Vienna International Centre (VIC), commonly known in Austria as 'UNO City', was opened in 1979 and is leased to the UN for 99 years, for a symbolic annual rental sum of one Austrian schilling (equivalent to seven Euro cents). Around 5000 employees from more than 150 countries work for the organizations based in Vienna.

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Vienna International Centre
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Austria
Telephone: +43 1 260 600

Email: unodcadvocacysection@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unodc/
X: @UNODC
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/unodc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/UNODCHQ

Website: www.unodc.org
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director: Ghada Fathi Waly, Egypt, Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna (since February 2020; appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2019)

Purpose

UNODC is mandated to support Member States in the prevention of illicit drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. The Office is also the Secretariat of the:

- Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
- Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunitions
- Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption
- UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held every five years.

The three pillars of UNODC's work programme are:

- Research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions
- Normative work to assist states in the ratification and implementation of the relevant international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism, and the provision of secretariat and other services to the treaty-based and governing bodies
- Field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

The drug programme works on the prevention of drug abuse and assistance for drug treatment, as well as to strengthen international action against production and trafficking of illicit drugs. The crime programme works to strengthen the rule of law and to promote stable criminal justice systems. It pays special attention to addressing transnational organized crime, including trafficking in people, the smuggling of migrants and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, as well as combating corruption and preventing terrorism.

Evolution

The UN International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the predecessor of UNODC, was established under GA res. 45/179 (1990) as the programme responsible for coordinated international action in the field of drug abuse control. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme was established under GA res. 46/152 (1991) and was, from 1992, implemented under ECOSOC res. 1992/1 by the CCPCJ. The authority for the Programme's Fund was conferred on the Executive Director by GA res. 46/185C (1991). Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan (ST/SGB/2004/6) established UNODC on 15 March 2004 to implement the two programmes in an integrated manner.

Structure

UNODC has its headquarters in Vienna and a strong field office network employing over 2500 personnel in 111 countries. Eleven regional offices and seven country offices also manage and oversee the work of 108 programme offices worldwide.

The field office network is essential for UNODC's technical cooperation activities and for its direct work with governments, institutions, civil society organizations, local communities, UN entities and development partners to deliver technical cooperation programmes tailored to the needs of Member States. Field offices also provide policy and strategic advice, technical expertise and support to their local counterparts for the development of new national policies, strategies and action plans in UNODC mandated areas.

UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

Vienna International Centre
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Austria
Telephone: +43 1 26060 4950
Email: oosa@un.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNOOSA
X: @unoosa
Instagram: @unoosa
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-office-for-outer-space-affairs

Website: www.unoosa.org
Director: Aarti Holla-Maini, UK (from September 2023; appointed by the UN Secretary-General on 26 June 2023)

Purpose

UNOOSA is responsible for advancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and the use of space science and technology for sustainable development. Its programmes help bridge the gap in space capabilities, promote space sustainability, and contribute to building a more inclusive and diverse space sector. UNOOSA maintains the UN Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the only treaty-based transparency and confidence-building measure that establishes a jurisdictional link between a state and a space object. UNOOSA facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue on space affairs by convening conferences, such as the World Space Forum series. It leads UN system-wide cooperation and coordination on space-related issues and activities through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities (UN-Space). The Office leads a number of capacity-building programmes, such as Access to Space for All, supporting UN Member States in their space journeys.

The Office also serves as the secretariat to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS, see entry on page 65), the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG), and the Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (SMPAG).

UNOOSA is based in Vienna, with offices for the UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in Bonn and Beijing.

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND ADVISORS

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

United Nations Secretariat, 32nd Floor
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Email: ohrlls-unhq@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNOHRLLS
X: @UNOHRLLS

Website: www.un.org/ohrlls/
Under-Secretary-General, High Representative: Rabab Fatima, Bangladesh (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2022)

Purpose

UN-OHRLLS was established in 2001 (GA res. 56/227) to mobilize international support for the 92 most vulnerable Member States. Least Developed Countries (LDCs) represent the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community. Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are challenged by their remoteness from world markets due to lack of territorial access to the sea. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are also remote from world markets and they are on the front lines of climate change. UN-OHRLLS raises awareness of their economic, social and environmental potential; coordinates UN system support towards their sustainable

development; monitors global commitments towards them; and ensures that the pressing needs of the 1.1 billion people who live in them remain high on the international agenda.

Each group's sustainable development is guided by a Programme of Action, the implementation and follow-up of which are facilitated and coordinated by the office with the support of its partners, which include Member States and other UN system organizations. The Doha Programme of Action for the LDCs, adopted in March 2022, focuses on supporting the LDCs through the decade 2022–2031 as they seek to recover from COVID-19, tackle climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Awaza Programme of Action, adopted in December 2024, focuses on supporting LLDCs' development aspirations, including through trade facilitation, structural transformation, transport connectivity, technology, climate resilience and the mobilization of international support. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), adopted in May 2024, aims to mitigate SIDS' development issues like geographic and economic isolation, limited resources, environmental fragility, transportation and energy access, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)

Secretariat Building S–3269
United Nations
New York, NY10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 929 450 6591
Email: osaa@un.org

Website: www.un.org/osaa/
Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa: Cristina Duarte, Cabo Verde (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2020)

Purpose

Established by the Secretary-General in 2003 (ST/SGB/2003/6, in line with GA resolutions 57/7 (2002) and 57/300 (2002)), OSAA promotes international support for the implementation in Africa of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through its advisory, advocacy, coordination and monitoring functions. In particular, OSAA provides advisory services to senior UN leadership, Member States and intergovernmental bodies on issues of priority and critical importance to Africa. It focuses on developing and analysing data-driven, evidence-based policy options across six thematic areas: financing for development; sustainable development for durable peace; governance and human capital; science, technology and innovation; industrialization and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); and energy access and climate action. Through targeted advocacy, OSAA promotes integrated policies in these areas to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

OSAA is the Secretariat of the UN Monitoring Mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development (GA res. 66/293 (2012), in line with GA res. 63/1 (2008)). The Office also convenes the Inter-Departmental Task Force on African Affairs, which aims to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to UN system support for Africa. In fulfilling its mandate, OSAA actively engages a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, the private sector, academia, and women and youth groups.

UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

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Email: osapg@un.org
X: @UNOSAPG

Website: www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/
Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide/Under-Secretary-General: Chaloka Beyani, Zambia (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2025)
Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect/Assistant Secretary-General: Mô Bleeker, Switzerland (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2024)

continued next page

Purpose

The Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide acts as a catalyst to raise awareness of the causes and dynamics of genocide, to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide, and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action. The Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect leads the conceptual, political, institutional and operational development of the Responsibility to Protect. The mandates of the two Special Advisers are distinct but complementary. They are supported by a joint office and work together to advance national and international efforts to protect populations from four mass atrocity crimes – genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity – as well as their incitement.

They work to strengthen the UN's role in preventing atrocity crimes by providing actionable early warning of the risk of these crimes in situations worldwide and recommendations for preventive action; carrying out advocacy for the protection of populations from the crimes; providing political leadership that encourages wider international action in response to identified risks or ongoing atrocity crimes, including through implementation of the Responsibility to Protect principle; and training and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations and civil society to prevent atrocity crimes and protect populations. More detail is available on the website.

Evolution

In 2001, following the genocidal violence in Rwanda and the Balkans, the Security Council invited the UN Secretary-General "to refer to the Council information and analyses within the United Nations system on cases of serious violations of international law" and on "potential conflict situations" arising from "ethnic, religious and territorial disputes" and other related issues (SC res. 1366 (2001)).

In consideration of the Council's request, the Secretary-General appointed the first Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide in 2004. The mandate of the Special Adviser, mainly outlined in a 2004 letter addressed by the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/567), is to:

- Collect existing information, in particular, from within the UN system, on massive and serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law of ethnic and racial origin that, if not prevented or halted, might lead to genocide
- Act as a mechanism of early warning to the Secretary-General, and through him or her to the Security Council, by bringing to the Council's attention situations that could potentially result in genocide
- Make recommendations to the Security Council, through the Secretary-General, on actions to prevent or halt genocide
- Liaise with the UN system on activities for the prevention of genocide and work to enhance the UN's capacity to analyse and manage information regarding genocide or related crimes.

In paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (GA res. 60/1 (2005)), heads of state and government affirmed their responsibility to protect their own populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and accepted a collective responsibility to encourage and help each other uphold this commitment. They also declared their preparedness to take timely and decisive action, in accordance with the UN Charter and in cooperation with relevant regional organizations, when national authorities manifestly fail to protect their populations.

The position of the Special Adviser on the Reponsibility to Protect was established in 2007 by an exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2007/721). In 2008, the Secretary-General appointed the first Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, on a part-time basis, to focus on the conceptual, political and

institutional–operational development of the Responsibility to Protect. This work is carried out through continued consultations and engagement with Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society and the UN. In 2021, the General Assembly decided to include an item on the Responsibility to Protect in its annual agenda and requested the Secretary-General to report annually on the topic (res. 75/277).

In addition to the mandate, the legal framework for the work of the Office is drawn from the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; the wider body of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law; and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council, including the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. The Office Is also the UN system-wide focal point on the Implementation of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG-CAAC)

United Nations Headquarters, Room FF-1732
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3178
Facebook: www.facebook.com/childrenandarmedconflict/

Website: http://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org
Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative: Virginia Gamba de Potgieter, Argentina (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in April 2017)

Purpose

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) serves as the leading UN advocate for the protection and well-being of children affected by armed conflict. The role of the Special Representative is to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict, raise awareness, promote the collection of information about children affected by war, foster international cooperation to improve their protection, and engage in prevention activities. The Special Representative reports annually to the General Assembly and Human Rights Council and raises challenges faced by children in war with political bodies, such as the Security Council, as well as with governments and other stakeholders such as regional and sub-regional organizations.

GA res. 51/77 (1996) first established the Special Representative's mandate for a period of three years following the publication, in 1996, of a report by Graça Machel entitled 'Impact of Armed Conflict on Children'. The report highlighted the disproportionate impact of war on children and identified them as the primary victims of armed conflict. The Office's mandate has been extended every three years since its establishment.

Through resolutions, the Security Council has provided the Office with the following tools to respond to violations against children:

- Gather and verify information detailing where and how children are affected by armed conflict
- Use this information in the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict presented to the Security Council and in the country-specific reports of the Secretary-General presented to the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict
- Name parties to conflict who commit violations that are triggers for listing
- Engage in dialogue with listed governments and armed groups to develop action plans to halt and prevent violations against children
- Engage in activities to strengthen measures to prevent violations against children.

The SRSG-CAAC Europe Liaison Office is located in Brussels, Belgium, and the Analysis and Outreach Hub on CAAC is located in Doha, Qatar.

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC)

405 East 42nd Street, 31st Floor, Room S–3123
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 0894
Fax: +1 212 963 0590

Facebook: www.facebook.com/endrapeinwar
X: @endrapeinwar
Instagram: @endrapeinwar
YouTube: @endrapeinwar

Website: www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict
Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative: Pramila Patten, Mauritius (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in April 2017)

Purpose

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) leads globally on UN advocacy and action to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence. The mandate was established by SC res. 1888 (2009), one in a series of resolutions that recognized the detrimental impact that conflict-related sexual violence has on peace and security, and on recovery, once a conflict has ended. These resolutions signal a change in the way the international community views and deals with conflict-related sexual violence. It is no longer seen as an inevitable by-product of war, but rather a crime that is preventable and punishable under international human rights and humanitarian law. Most recently, SC res. 2467 of April 2019 called upon parties to armed conflict to implement specific, time-bound commitments to combat conflict-related sexual violence and affirmed for the first time that a survivor-centred approach must guide every aspect of the response of affected countries and the international community.

The OSRSG-SVC engages with a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, military and judicial officials, all parties to conflict and civil society. The Office publishes the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence to highlight new and emerging concerns in relation to the use of sexual violence by parties to armed conflict, including as a tactic of war and terrorism (see S/2025/389).

The three priorities of the Office are:

- Converting cultures of impunity into cultures of justice and accountability through consistent and effective prosecution
- Fostering national ownership and leadership for a sustainable, survivor-centred response
- Addressing structural gender-based inequality and discrimination, poverty and marginalization as the root causes and invisible drivers of sexual violence in times of war and peace.

Pursuant to SC res. 1888 (2009), Women's Protection Advisers (WPAs) also work within peacekeeping and special political missions to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of Security Council resolutions on conflict-related sexual violence.

Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict

Website: www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/our-work/team-of-experts/

The Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict was mandated by SC res. 1888 (2009) to assist national authorities in conflict, post-conflict and other situations of concern by strengthening the rule of law to address impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. It reports directly to the SRSG-SVC and is composed of experts from the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and UN Development Programme (UNDP), which serve as co-lead entities.

The Team of Experts provides technical assistance to national institutions in the following thematic areas: criminal investigations and prosecutions; collection and preservation of

evidence; investigations and prosecutions within the military justice system; criminal law reform and procedural law reform; protection of victims, witnesses and justice officials; security sector oversight; and reparations. It promotes South–South cooperation, enabling countries facing conflict-related sexual violence to learn from each other's experiences.

UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

Website: www.stoprapenow.org and www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/about-us/un-action/

UN Action unites the work of 27 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of conflict. Chaired by the SRSG-SVC, it aims to provide a holistic response to conflict-related sexual violence, encompassing public health, humanitarian, developmental, human rights, gender, political, legal and security perspectives. The network is supported by a small Secretariat, headed by a coordinator. In December 2008, UN Action established a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to mobilize funds to support a range of joint catalytic activities on the ground as well as the UN Action Secretariat. UN Action's work is funded exclusively by voluntary contributions from a range of governments. The UN Action member entities are listed on the website.

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG-VAC)

United Nations Headquarters, Room FF-1708
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 917 367 6127
X: @UN_EndViolence

Website: https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org
Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative: Najat Maalla M'jid, Morocco (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2019)

Purpose

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (SRSG-VAC) is an independent global advocate in favour of the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, mobilizing action and political support to achieve progress the world over. The mandate of the SRSG-VAC is anchored in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments and framed by the UN Study on Violence against Children (A/61/299 (2006)). The Special Representative's mandate was established by GA res. 62/141 (2008) and has since been regularly extended, most recently by GA res. 76/147 (2022) for an additional four years.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a specific target (16.2) to end all forms of violence against children, and ending the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children is mainstreamed across several other violence-related targets. The root causes, drivers and manifestations of violence against children are also relevant to the 2030 Agenda more broadly, and the Office supports advocacy for:

- Accelerating implementation of Agenda 2030 and reaching the targets on violence against children and its drivers, leaving no one behind
- Widening the engagement of children as key players in decision-making processes related to violence and protection, and promoting a culture of children's participation.

The SRSG-VAC reports directly to the UN Secretary-General and collaborates closely with a wide range of partners, within and beyond the UN system. The SRSG-VAC chairs the UN Interagency Working Group on Violence Against Children and the UN Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty. The SRSG-VAC engages directly with Member States through country visits and bilateral meetings, and presents reports annually to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. In addition to regular reports, the SRSG-VAC can issue thematic reports and advocacy briefs on key areas of concern.

Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA)

Library Building L-300
United Nations
New York, 10017
United States of America

Email: ovra@un.org
X: @UN_OVRA

Website: www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/office-victims-rights-advocate and www.un.org/en/victims-rights-first
Assistant Secretary-General and Victims' Rights Advocate: Najla Nassif Palma, Brazil (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2024)

Purpose

The UN Victims' Rights Advocate (VRA) has a system-wide mandate across peace, humanitarian and development contexts to put the rights and dignity of victims and survivors of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by UN staff and related personnel at the forefront of the UN's prevention and response efforts. The Secretary-General created the role of the VRA in the report 'Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: a new approach' (A/71/818).

The Office supports the mandate of the VRA, who advocates to ensure victims have a voice, assistance and justice. She works with UN entities, Member States, civil society, national legal and human rights organizations to build networks of support and assist in ensuring accountability of perpetrators, remedies for victims and resolution of paternity claims for children born of SEA.

Senior Victims' Rights Officers perform the functions of the VRA on the ground. They are fully dedicated to supporting the realization of the rights of victims. They work with, and under the guidance of, the VRA to implement a victim-centred approach. They maintain direct and regular contact with victims, ensuring they access assistance, accompanying them through UN and other investigations and accountability processes and keeping them updated on their cases.

OTHER ENTITIES

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

FF Building, 304 E 45th St, 14th Floor
New York, NY, 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 963 7209

Email: contactaoc@unops.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unaoc.org
X: @UNAOC
Instagram: @unaoc

Website: www.unaoc.org
Under-Secretary-General, High Representative, UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia: Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, Spain (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2018; took office in January 2019)

Purpose

Launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2005, UNAOC serves as a soft-power political tool for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Its special status and mandate have been recognized by the General Assembly in its resolutions 64/14 (2009) and 69/312 (2015). UNAOC aims to improve understanding and cooperation among nations and peoples across cultures; to reduce polarization at local and global levels; and to develop more inclusive societies, in which diversity is experienced as an asset.

UNAOC focuses on five strategic priority areas: prevention; mediation; preventing and countering violent extremism; promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including dialogue among civilizations for our shared humanity; and addressing religious intolerance, bigotry and

other forms of discrimination. UNAOC also coordinates the implementation of the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites and the UN Action Plan to Enhance Monitoring and Response to Antisemitism, in collaboration with relevant UN agencies and departments, as well as other stakeholders. In 2020, the High Representative was designated by the UN Secretary-General as the focal point to monitor antisemitism and enhance a system-wide response. In May 2025, pursuant to GA res. 78/264 (2024), he was appointed UN Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia.

Structure

The High Representative is responsible for UNAOC's administration and activities. Pursuant to GA res. 79/258 B (2025), UNAOC is funded by both the regular budget and voluntary contributions through the Trust Fund for UNAOC. It has a secretariat in New York and a secondary office in Geneva.

UN Ethics Office

323 East 44th Street, DC2-0612
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 917 367 5731
Email: ethicsoffice@un.org

Website: www.un.org/en/ethics/
Director: Juraj Strasser, Slovakia (since December 2024; appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2024)

Purpose

The UN Ethics Office promotes an ethical organizational culture based on the UN's core values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity, and the values outlined in the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service, including loyalty to the UN, independence, impartiality, integrity, accountability and respect for human rights. It was established in 2006 pursuant to GA res. 60/248. It assists the Secretary-General in ensuring that all staff members perform their functions consistent with the highest standards of integrity in accordance with Article 101, para. 3, of the Charter of the UN, taking into consideration para. 161 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

Independent from management and all other UN offices, the UN Ethics Office is impartial in its treatment of individuals and maintains confidentiality of information entrusted to it. It provides a secure confidential environment where staff can feel free to consult on ethical issues, avoid and manage conflicts of interest, and seek protection against retaliation for reporting misconduct and cooperating with authorized audits and investigations.

Structure

The Office carries out its work through five strategic functions: advice; protection against retaliation; financial disclosure; ethics training; and coherence of ethical standards. It serves the UN Secretariat, including duty stations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi; all regional commissions, peacekeeping operations, special political missions; and other designated offices.

UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services (UNOMS)

Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services
2 United Nations Plaza, DC2 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 917 367 5731
Email: unoms@un.org (case-related inquiries) or unoms-oasg@un.org (other inquiries)

Website: www.un.org/ombudsman
United Nations Ombudsman: Shireen L Dodson, USA (since June 2018; reappointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2023 for a second five-year term)

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Purpose

The Office of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services is established in the Office of the Secretary-General to make available the services of an impartial and independent person to address the employment-related problems of staff members (ST/SGB/2002/12). The updated terms of reference for the Office were issued on 22 June 2016 (ST/SGB/2016/7).

Structure

The Office functions independently of any entity or official within the UN and with direct access to the Secretary-General, as needed. It is headed by the UN Ombudsman, at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, who is appointed by the Secretary-General after consultations with members of a search committee comprising staff, management and external experts. The Ombudsman reports regularly to the General Assembly and Secretary-General.

The Office is supported by regional branch offices located around the globe, to provide services to all UN staff in any of the six official UN languages.

UN Office for Partnerships (UN Partnerships)

405 East 42nd Street, S-1512 to S-1517
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Email: partnerships@un.org

X: @UN_Partnerships
Instagram: @un_partners
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/un-partnerships

Website: https://unpartnerships.un.org/
Executive Director: Annemarie Hou, USA (since 2020)

Purpose

UN Partnerships is a global gateway for uniting stakeholders to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Convening, creating and mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships and initiatives, it guides and engages internal and external partners at all levels to innovate and amplify action to accelerate progress on the Goals.

The Office works to achieve these aims through its constituent teams, funds and initiatives:

- SDG Advocates: 17 influential champions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development appointed by the Secretary-General to promote the Organization's priorities and messages
- Climate action mobilization team: The Office supports the work of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in mobilizing support for ambitious climate action
- Women Rise for All: An initiative launched in 2020 by the Deputy Secretary-General, dedicated to amplifying the voice of the Secretary-General and women's leadership in keeping the promise of the SDGs
- UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF): A general trust fund that supports projects aimed at strengthening civil society's voice, promoting human rights, and encouraging the participation of all groups in democratic processes
- UN Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP): As primary interface with the UN Foundation, UNFIP works closely with the Foundation to finance initiatives aimed at accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, including projects that advance global health priorities, climate action, digital cooperation and equality for girls and women.

UN Partnerships collaborates closely within the UN partnership ecosystem, including with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, the Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Development Coordination Office (DCO), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Climate Action Team, the UN Global Compact, the UN Youth Office, UN-Women, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

OTHER BODIES SUBSIDIARY OR RELATED TO THE UN

OTHER BODIES SUBSIDIARY OR RELATED TO THE UN

FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND BODIES OF THE UN

RECOGNIZED FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES OF THE UN

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF House
3 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 326 7000
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicef
X: @UNICEF
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/unicef

Website: www.unicef.org
Executive Director: Catherine Russell, USA (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in December 2021)

Purpose

UNICEF was established by the General Assembly to provide emergency assistance to children in war-ravaged countries following World War II (GA res. 57 (I) (1946)). By GA res. 417 (V) (1950), the General Assembly charged it with addressing the needs of children in developing countries. GA res. 802 (VIII) (1953) extended UNICEF's mandate indefinitely, with an emphasis on programmes giving long-term benefits to children everywhere, particularly those in developing countries, and changed the organization's name to the United Nations Children's Fund but retained the UNICEF acronym. The Fund continues to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance in emergencies.

UNICEF undertakes programmes in health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation, the environment, child protection, gender issues and development, emergency response and other fields of importance to children, benefiting all children everywhere, with special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children. It works with governments, local communities and other aid organizations in developing countries and territories, focusing on supporting children during critical periods of their lives when intervention can make a lasting difference.

UNICEF's strategic plan for the years 2022–2025 aims to drive action towards an inclusive recovery from COVID-19, acceleration towards the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the attainment of a society in which every child is included, without discrimination, and has agency, opportunity and their rights fulfilled. It consists of five goal areas – that every child: survives and thrives; learns; is protected from violence and exploitation; lives in a safe and sustainable climate and environment; and has access to inclusive social protection and lives free from poverty – plus cross-cutting programmes on climate action, disability, peacebuilding, resilience and gender.

Structure

UNICEF reports through its Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which in turn reports to the General Assembly. The Board is responsible for providing intergovernmental support to, and monitoring of, UNICEF's activities, and for ensuring that UNICEF is responsive to the needs and priorities of recipient countries. It also approves UNICEF's policies, country programmes and budgets. The specific functions of the Board are set out in Annex I of GA res. 48/162 (1993). The Board's work is coordinated by a bureau comprising one representative from each of the five regional groups of Member States.

UNICEF's resources derive from voluntary contributions from governments, intergovernmental donors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Thirty-four UNICEF National Committees, mostly in industrialized countries, support its work in raising funds and in advocacy.

Meetings

The Board meets in one annual and two regular sessions a year, holding intersessional meetings as it deems necessary. A joint meeting is also held annually with the UN Development Programme (UNDP)/UN Population Fund (UNFPA)/UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN-Women and World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Boards.

Membership

GA res. 48/162 (1993) decided the UNICEF Executive Board should be reconstituted to comprise 36 members (previously 41) and that membership should be based on equitable geographical representation and other relevant factors. Members come from all UN Member States, with seats allocated for each UN regional group (as noted in the list of members). About a third of the Executive Board's 36 members are elected annually by ECOSOC, usually in April/May, for three-year terms that begin 1 January of the following year.

The Bureau consists of a president and four vice-presidents elected annually by the Board. As a matter of custom, Security Council permanent members do not serve as officers of the Board.

Executive Board members (36)*

	Previous	Current
African states (8 seats)		
Algeria	1971–74 82–85 2004–06 22–24	
Angola	1991–97 2017–19	
Benin	1975–78 84–90 2019–21	
Botswana	1980–83 2016–18	
Burkina Faso	1982–85 93–96 2006–08 15–17	
Burundi	1979–82 95–97 2004–06 19–21	
Cameroon	1967–70 76–79 88–91 2007–09 16–21	
Cabo Verde	1997 99 2010–12	
Central African Republic	1973–76 82–85 91–94 2007–09 13–15	
Chad	1982–85 2022–24	
Comoros	1998–2000 22–24	
Congo	1972–75 85–88 91–94 1998–2000 10–12	
Côte d'Ivoire	1981–84 2000–02 22–24	
DR Congo	2001–03 13–15	
Djibouti	1985–88 2004–06 13–15 19–21	
Egypt	1955–59 64–67 70–76 88–91 2013–15	
Equatorial Guinea		2025–27
Eritrea	2003–05 15–17	2025–27
Eswatini	1982–85	2025–27
Ethiopia	1966–69 85–88 91–94 2007–09 16–18 21–23	
Gabon	1970–73 85–88 2001–03	
Gambia	2001–03 12–14	
Ghana	1978–81 93–96 2003–05 13–15 18–20	
Guinea	1968–70 75–78 2000–02	
Kenya	1995–97 2012–14	
Lesotho	1983–89 2002–04	
Liberia	1987–93 2009–11 21–23	
Libya	1979–82 1998–2000 16–18	
Madagascar	1982–85 2001–03	

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Malawi 1970–73 2004–06 10–12
Mali 1985–88 2007–09
Mauritania 2007–09 2025–27
Morocco 1965–68 76–79 95–97 2001–03 19–21
Mozambique 1992–95 2005–07 2023–25
Namibia 1996–98 2011–13
Niger 1984–87
Nigeria 1961–64 70–75 88–91 97–99 2025–27
Rwanda 1973–76 2006–08 22–24
São Tomé and Príncipe 1988–91
Senegal 1963–69 78–81 91–94 2004–06 2024–26
Sierra Leone 1969–71 90–93 2016–18
Somalia 1979–85 2010–12
South Africa 1946–51 1998–2000
Sudan 1963–65 88–93 1998–2000 09–11 18–20
Togo 1981–84
Tunisia 1957–71 85–88 2010–12
Uganda 1967–70 74–77 88–91 95–97
UR of Tanzania 1976–79 91–94 2024–26
Zambia 1977–80 2014–16
Zimbabwe 1989–92 1999–2001 08–10 20–22

Asia–Pacific states (7 seats)

Afghanistan 1960–63 65–67 77–80
Bahrain 1982–85
Bangladesh 1982–91 1998–2000 04–06 09–11 15–17 19–24
Bhutan 1984–87
China 1946–56 58–73 1980–2022 2023–25
DPRK 2005–07
India 1950–60 62–77 78–97 2000–05 07–09 12–14 16–18 2025–27
Indonesia 1951–78 84–96 97–99 2001–03 11–13
Iran 1957–62 2000–05 08–10 13–18
Iraq 1945–55 68–70
Jordan 1977–80
Kazakhstan 1998–2000 10–12 21–23
Lao PDR 2001–03 2025–27
Lebanon 1993–96 2004–06 22–24
Malaysia 2007–09
Mongolia 2019–21
Myanmar 2004–09
Nepal 1982–85 92–94 2002–04 16–18
Oman 1985–91 97–99 2024–26
Pakistan 1952–80 81–84 85–97 1999–2001 06–08 10–12 13–15 19–21
Papua New Guinea 2014–16
Philippines 1951–60 63–81 87–90 92–95
Qatar 2010–12
ROK 1988–97 2006–23 2025–27
Saudi Arabia 2017–19
Sri Lanka 1951–52 90–93
Tajikistan 2023–25
Thailand 1951–53 65–67 69–77 80–92 2013–15
Turkmenistan 2018–20 2024–26
UAE 1981–84 2022–24
Viet Nam 1959–62 96–98
Yemen 1991–94 1998–2000 01–03 20–22

Eastern European states (4 seats)[1]

Albania	2012–14
Armenia	2001–03
Azerbaijan	1994–97 1998–2000
Belarus	1946–56 78–81 88–91 94–95 2004–06 10–12 15–19
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2016–18
Bulgaria	1960–65 66–78 85–88 92–94 2013–15 2023–25
Croatia	2007–09
Czechia	1993 98–99 2017–19 2023–25
Estonia	2011–16 20–22 2024–26
Hungary	1979–85
Lithuania	2019–21
Poland	1946–50 57–79 86–92 2022–24
Republic of Moldova	2003–05 20
Romania	1971–74 84–87 93–96 2000–02 08–10
Russian Federation	1946–2019 20–22
Serbia	2006–08
Slovakia	2021–23
Slovenia	2002–04 09–11 2025–27
Ukraine	1946–50 1996–98 1999–2001 05–07

Latin American and Caribbean states (5 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda	1998–2000 08–19
Argentina	1946–55 85–88 2005–07 21–23
Bahamas	2007–09
Barbados	1977–83 89–92
Bolivia	1951 75–78 88–91 2000–02 05–07 2025–27
Brazil	1946–71 76–79 80–83 85–88 91–96 2015–20
Chile	1958–75 77–80 82–88
Colombia	1946–50 55–59 74–77 83–89 92–94 2001–03 06–08 11–13 15–20
Costa Rica	1970–73 92–95 2021–23
Cuba	1974–77 83–86 96–98 2001–02 09–17 20–22 2023–25
Dominican Republic	1951 54–65 67–70 2024–26
Ecuador	1946–62 65–68 2002–04 2023–25
El Salvador	1957–63 2004–06 10–12 16–18 2024–26
Grenada	2022–24
Guatemala	2006–08 17–19
Guyana	1986–89 1999–2001 13–15
Haiti	2008–10 12–14
Jamaica	1991–96 97–99 2002–04
Mexico	1960–65 79–91 2019–21
Nicaragua	1988–94 97–99 2003–05
Panama	1982–85 2014–16
Paraguay	1999–2001 20–22
Peru	1967–69 73–76 89–92 2003–05
Suriname	1993–95 96–98
Trinidad and Tobago	2000
Uruguay	1951–56 62–64 71–74 87–93 2009–11
Venezuela	1957–58 68–74 78–87 95–97

Western European and Other states (plus Japan) (12 seats)[2]

Andorra	2016
Australia	1946–61 66–69 79–82 83–86 87–90 91–95 2001–02 05–08 15–16 19 21–23 2025–27
Austria	1957–59 81–84 2004–06 08–09 12 18 23–24

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Belgium	1951–61 65–71 80–83 84–90 97–99 2007 11 13–14 21–23
Canada	1946–58 62–96 1999–2001 03–06 09–10 12–13 15 17–20 24
Denmark	1946–50 84–87 90–93 96–97 1999–2001 03–04 06–07 09–11 13–14 16–17 19–20 22–23 2025
Finland	1974–77 83–86 89–94 95 1998–2000 05–06 08–09 12–13 15–16 21 24
France	1946–96 98–99 2001–02 04–05 09–11 13–15 17–19 22 2025–27
Germany	1975–95 97–99 2001–03 06–09 11–12 14–15 17–18 20–24 2025–27
Greece	1946–57 60–62 1998–2000 08–10 13 18 23
Iceland	2010 18 24
Ireland	2002–03 07 10 13 17 20 24
Israel	1951–59 61–68 2013
Italy	1951–64 70–79 82–97 2000–02 04–06 09–12 14–16 18–19 21–22
Japan	1954–57 60–62 1973–2009 11–12 14–17 20–21 23–24
Luxembourg	2003–10 16–17 19 23
Monaco	2022
Netherlands	1946–50 75–81 82–88 89–97 2000–02 05–07 09 11–12 14–16 18–19 21–24 2025
New Zealand	1946–52 58–61 97–98 2010–11 14 20–21
Norway	1946–55 71–74 77–83 86–89 91–94 95–99 2001–02 04–05 08–10 12–15 17–18 20–22 2023–25
Portugal	2001–03 07 12 19 2025–27
Spain	1963–65 90–93 2000 03–04 06 08 11–12 15 17 20 2025
Sweden	1946–50 55–84 88–91 92–98 2000–08 09–17 19–20 22–24 2025
Switzerland	1946–94 96–99 2002–04 07 09–10 13 16 19–21 2025–26
Türkiye	1951 59–74 86–89 93–94 96–97 2000 07 18 23
UK	1946–81 82–96 1998–2000 03–05 07–08 10–12 14 16–19 20–22 2024–25
USA	1946–24 2025

Bureau for 2025

President

Jonibek Ismoil Hikmat, Tajikistan

Vice-Presidents

Diego Pacheco Balanza, Bolivia

Rein Tammsaar, Estonia

Sophia Tesfamariam, Eritrea

Thomas Peter Zahneisen, Germany

Notes

* On 5 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 10 members to serve three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2026: China and Kyrgyzstan (Asia–Pacific states); Georgia and Ukraine (Eastern European states); Antigua and Barbuda and Guatemala (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Iceland, Japan, Norway and UK (Western European and Other states). It postponed the election of one member from the African states group for the same term. It also elected Canada, Liechtenstein and Türkiye to complete the terms of Australia, Portugal and France, beginning on 1 January 2026 and expiring on 31 December 2027.

From 1946 to 1963, the Executive Board terms ran from 1 January to 31 December; from 1963 to 1966, 1 February to 31 January; and from 1967 to 1993, 1 August to 31 July. Since 1994, terms have again followed the calendar year. Some members elected for 1993–94 were not re-elected for 1994. These included Bulgaria, Finland, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Senegal, Türkiye and Yemen.

1 Czechoslovakia served on the Board in 1968–71 and 1990–92; the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Board in 1946–61, 1965–68, 1974–86 and 1987–92; and the German Democratic Republic served on the Board in 1981–84 and 1990.

2 The Western European and Other states group has its own rotation scheme under which some of its members do not serve a full three-year term. The USA does not participate in this rotation scheme. The current terms listed reflect the rotation scheme as at July 2025.

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Palais des Nations
8–14, Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 1234
Email: unctadinfo@unctad.org

Website: https://unctad.org

Secretary-General: Rebeca Grynspan, Costa Rica (appointed in June 2021 for a four-year term from September 2021 to August 2025)

Purpose

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD, formerly UN Conference on Trade and Development), which is governed by its 195 member states, is the UN body responsible for dealing with development issues, particularly international trade. Reflection on development is at the heart of UNCTAD's work. It produces analyses that form the basis for recommendations to economic policy makers. The aim is to help policy makers take informed decisions and promote the macroeconomic policies best suited to ending global economic inequalities and to generating people-centred sustainable development.

UN Trade and Development is also a forum where representatives of all countries can discuss ways to establish a better balance in the global economy. In addition, UNCTAD offers direct technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, helping them to become equitably integrated in the global economy and to improve the well-being of their populations.

Structure

The highest UNCTAD decision-making body is the quadrennial Conference, at which its members make assessments of current trade and development issues, discuss policy options and formulate global policy responses. The Conference also sets the organization's mandate and work priorities. It adopted the Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2) at its hybrid session in October 2021 (UNCTAD 15).

Between Conference sessions, the Trade and Development Board (TDB) functions as UNCTAD's executive body to take action on implementing Conference decisions and ensure the overall continuity of UNCTAD's work.

Meetings

The first UNCTAD session took place in Geneva in 1964 in accordance with ECOSOC res. 917 (XXXIV) (1962) and UN General Assembly resolution 1785 (XVII) (1962). UNCTAD holds a ministerial-level meeting every four years. The 16th session of the quadrennial Conference is scheduled to be held in October 2025.

UNCTAD also holds discussions with civil society, where members of the public can express their views and interact with country representatives. UNCTAD organizes various forums, such as the World Investment Forum, the Global Commodities Forum, the Civil Society Forum, the Youth Forum, and the UN Trade Forum, that bring together major players from the international community to discuss challenges and opportunities and to promote development policies and partnerships for sustainable development and equitable growth.

Trade and Development Board (TDB)

Website: https://unctad.org/about/trade-and-development-board

Purpose

Between UNCTAD sessions, the TDB functions under GA res. 1995 (XIX) (1964) as UNCTAD's executive body. The TDB reports to UNCTAD.

At the UNCTAD XII Conference in April 2008, it was agreed that the TDB would have two subsidiary commissions that perform integrated policy work within specific terms of reference, the:

- Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
- Trade and Development Commission.

At the UNCTAD XIV Conference in July 2016, it was agreed that the TDB would operationalize the creation of two intergovernmental expert groups. The terms of reference for the two groups, on E-commerce and the Digital Economy and on Financing for Development, were approved at the 31st special session of the TDB in April 2017 and were further refined in 2021.

Meetings

The TDB meets in Geneva in a regular session once a year, usually in June and lasting two weeks, with several days set aside for informal meetings to discuss and reach consensus on agreed conclusions.

The Board also holds up to three executive sessions a year, usually lasting three days, and convenes, if needed, special sessions on matters that have immediate or expected future impact on the economic progress of developing countries. The TDB adjusts UNCTAD's work to reflect current trade and development issues and concerns.

The TDB Bureau, made up of the Board's President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur, regularly meets informally to facilitate consensus building. It sometimes meets in an 'extended bureau' format, which comprises the regional coordinators and interested TDB Member States.

In addition, TDB Member States may meet informally, including at the regular Consultations of the President of the TDB, which are normally held monthly. This is an opportunity for briefings on key issues and meetings, as well as continued informal work on pending issues and matters before they are referred to more formal forums.

Membership

TDB membership is open to all UNCTAD Member States. There are 160 TDB members, as listed on the UNCTAD website.

UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)

UN Development Coordination Office
Secretariat Building, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Email: dcodirector@un.org
X: @UN_SDG

Website: https://unsdg.un.org
Chair (UN Deputy Secretary-General): Amina J Mohammed, Nigeria (since 2017)
Vice-Chair (UN Development Programme (UNDP) Acting Administrator): Haoliang Xu, China

Purpose

The UNSDG serves as the highest-level inter-agency forum for joint policy formation, decision-making and accountability of the UN development system with regard to operational activities at all levels. It unites the entities of the UN system that contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level.

The UNSDG provides strategic direction and oversight to ensure UN development system entities deliver coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain sustainable development. To this effect, the UNSDG seeks to facilitate joint policy formation and decision-making, encourage programmatic cooperation and realize management efficiencies within the UN development system.

The UNSDG was originally created as the 'United Nations Development Group (UNDG)' following the UN General Assembly's endorsement of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's report 'Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform' (A/51/950, para. 73). UN Secretary-General António Guterres reinvigorated the UNDG as the 'United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)', as described in his December 2017 report 'Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: our promise for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet' (A/72/684–E/2018/7).

Structure

The UNSDG is chaired by the UN Deputy Secretary-General. The UNDP Administrator serves as the UNSDG Vice-Chair. The UNSDG Chair convenes the UNSDG at the level of UN Executive Heads at least four times a year.

The UN Development Coordination Office (DCO, see page 223) is the secretariat and technical and advisory support unit of the UNSDG and works under the leadership of the UNSDG Chair and guidance of the UNSDG.

At the regional level, five Regional Collaborative Platforms, chaired by the UNSDG Chair and vice-chaired by the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Economic Commissions and UNDP, are composed of the regional directors of UNSDG member entities. As the highest-ranking representatives of the UN development system at the country level, Resident Coordinators lead the collective UN development efforts of 130 UN country teams.

Meetings

The UNSDG convenes four times a year at Principals level, including twice on the margins of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB). The Chair also convenes extraordinary meetings as needed.

Membership

The UNSDG comprises all entities of the UN system that contribute operationally to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level. The Secretariats to Conventions, as well as UN research and training institutes, can be invited to the UNSDG as required by the topics under discussion.

Members

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

International Trade Centre (ITC)

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

UN Volunteers (UNV)

World Food Programme (WFP)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

UN Development Programme (UNDP)

1 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 906 5000

Website: www.undp.org
Acting Administrator: Haoliang Xu, China (since 17 June 2025)

Purpose

UNDP leads the UN's global development network. With activities in over 170 countries and territories, it works throughout the world helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on their national priorities. UNDP's mandate is to end poverty, strengthen accountable and inclusive governance, and build resilience to crises and climate change. UNDP advocates for transformational development change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help build a better life. UNDP's flagship publication is the Human Development Report, which focuses on key development issues and provides measurement tools, innovative analysis and policy proposals.

UNDP began operations in 1966 under GA res. 2029 (XX) (1965), which combined the UN Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) with the UN Special Fund.

Structure

UNDP has a 36-member Executive Board, which is responsible for providing intergovernmental support to and supervision of the activities of UNDP, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, and the responsibilities set out in the UN Charter. It must also be responsive to the needs of programme countries. The Board is under ECOSOC's authority, and its functions are set out in GA res. 48/162 (1993). The Executive Board superseded the 48-member Governing Council on 1 January 1994.

ECOSOC elects Board members each year from among UN Member States. Members are elected for three-year terms ending on 31 December. GA res. 48/162 (1993) specified that membership should be based on equitable geographic representation, as noted in the list of members.

The Executive Board Bureau is composed of one president and four vice-presidents, elected from members at the first regular session each year and taking into account the need for equitable geographical representation. The Bureau's primary functions are to prepare and organize Board meetings, facilitate transparent decision-making and promote dialogue in decision-making.

UNDP administers special funds and programmes, including UN Volunteers and the UN Capital Development Fund (see separate entries). It also hosts the UN Office for South–South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). The UNDP Administrator is also the Vice-Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, which encompasses the funds, programmes, specialized agencies, departments and offices of the UN system that play a role in development.

UNDP is funded entirely from voluntary contributions by a range of partners including UN Member States, multilateral and philanthropic organizations. These contributions are provided as either regular budget resources or resources earmarked by contributors. Details for 2025 are at open.undp.org/#2025.

Meetings

The Executive Board meets in one annual and two regular sessions each year, held in New York.

Executive Board Members (36)*

	Previous	Current
African states (8 seats)		
Algeria	2006–08 21–23	
Angola	2007–09 13–15	
Benin	2006–08 16–18	
Botswana	1998–2000 04–06 19–21	
Burkina Faso	2010–12 18–20	
Burundi	1995–97	
Cameroon	1994 2004–06 10–12 16–24	
Cabo Verde	2003–05	
Central African Republic	2007–09	
Chad	2016–18 22–24	2025–27
Comoros	2002–04	
Congo	1994 2004–06 13–15	
Côte d'Ivoire	2022–24	2025–27
DR Congo	1995–2003 10–12	
Djibouti	2001–03 11–13	
Egypt	2000–02 18–20	
Eritrea	2004–06	
Ethiopia	1995–97 1999–2001 13–15	2023–25
Gabon	2001–03	

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Gambia 1994–97 2004–06 19–21
Ghana 1998–2000
Guinea 1997–99 2015–17
Kenya 2022–24
Lesotho 1994 2013–15 22–24
Liberia 2012–14
Libya 1997–99 2015–17
Madagascar 1996–98 2025–27
Malawi 2007–09 16–18
Mauritania 2001–03 09–11
Mauritius 2017–19
Morocco 1994–96 2012–14
Mozambique 2001–03 2025–27
Niger 2013–15
Nigeria 2021–23 2024–26
Rwanda 2010–12 19–21
Senegal 2007–09
Sierra Leone 1994–96 2009–11
Somalia 1994 2007–09 20–22
South Africa 1998–2000 10–12 19–21
Sudan 1994–95
Togo 2000–02
Tunisia 2003–05 2024–26
Uganda 2005–07 16–18
UR of Tanzania 1998–2000 08–10 14–16
Zambia 1995–97 2025–27

Asia–Pacific states (7 seats)

Bangladesh 1994–96 2006–08 11–13 21–23 2024–26
Bhutan 2007–09
Cambodia 2018–20
China 1994–2003 04–09 11–22 2023–25
DPRK 2005–07
Fiji 2013–15
India 1994–2001 03–05 07–12 15–17 19–21 2025–27
Indonesia 1995–97 2000–02 04–06 12–14
Iran 2001–03 04–06 09–11 13–15 17–19 21–23
Kazakhstan 2005–07 22–24
Kuwait 2020–22
Kyrgyzstan 1999–2001
Lao PDR 2008–10 16–18
Lebanon 1998–2000
Malaysia 1996–98
Myanmar 2022–24
Nauru 2024–26
Nepal 2003–05 14–16
Pakistan 1994–99 2002–04 06–08 10–15
Papua New Guinea 1994
Philippines 1994–97 2001–03
Qatar 2010–12 22–24
ROK 1994–95 1998–2000 08–10 12–14 16–21 2023–25
Samoa 2016–18
Saudi Arabia 2018–20
Solomon Islands 2025–27
Tajikistan 2025–27
Thailand 1997–99
Vanuatu 2019–21

Viet Nam	2000–02
Yemen	2002–04 09–11 15–17

Eastern European states (4 seats)

Albania	2017–19
Armenia	2014–16
Azerbaijan	2008–10
Belarus	1999–2001 05–07 11–13 16–18
Bulgaria	1994–95 2001–03 13–15 20–22
Czechia	1998–2000 02–04 11–13 20–22
Estonia	2011–12
Georgia	2025–27
Montenegro	2014–16
Poland	1994–96 2004–06
Republic of Moldova	2017–19 2023–25
Romania	1996–98 2002–04 2024–26
Russian Federation	1994–95 1997–2023
Serbia	2007–09
Slovakia	1994–97 2008–10 2023–25
Slovenia	2010
Ukraine	1996–2001 05–07 19–24

Latin American and Caribbean states (5 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda	1997–99 2002–04 07–09 10–12 15–20
Argentina	1994–98 2011–13
Belize	1996–98
Brazil	1997–2002 12–14 18–20 2024–26
Colombia	2008–10 20–22 2023–25
Costa Rica	2022–24
Cuba	1994–97 1999–2001 04–06 09–11 14–19 21–23
Dominican Republic	2025–27
Ecuador	2001–03 06–08 14–16 2023–25
El Salvador	2003–05 11–13
Guatemala	1999–2001 05–07 13–15 21–23
Guyana	2005–07
Haiti	2008–10 16–18
Honduras	2000–02
Jamaica	1998–2000 06–08 2024–26
Mexico	2009–11 19–21
Nicaragua	2012–14
Panama	2017–19
Peru	1994–96 2002–04 20–22
Trinidad and Tobago	1994–96
Uruguay	1994–95 2003–05
Venezuela	2015–17

Western European and Other states (plus Japan) (12 seats)[1]

Australia	1997–98 2003–05 08 12 15 17–20 2025
Austria	1997–99 2009–10 16 20–21 2025–26
Belgium	1994–96 2000–02 07 10 14 16 19 23 2025–27
Canada	1994–96 98–99 2001–04 07 10–12 14 16 19–20 23–24
Denmark	1994–96 98–99 2001–02 04–09 11–12 15 17–18 20–21 23 2025–27
Finland	1996–97 2001–03 09–11 14 17–18 20–22
France	1994–95 97–98 2000–04 08–10 13–14 16–18 24
Germany	1994–97 1999–2003 04–07 09 11 13–15 17–18 24 2025–27

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Greece	2007 12 21–22	
Iceland	2008 15 23–24	
Ireland	1998–2000 08 11 13–14 19–20 23	2025–26
Israel	2012	
Italy	1994–95 1999–2001 03–05 07–08 11–12 15 19–20 24	
Japan	1994–2005 06–08 10–13 15 16–18 20–22	2023–25
Luxembourg	2002 11–12 17–18	2025–26
Monaco	2019	
Netherlands	1996–98 2000–02 04–06 08–11 13–16 19–22 24	
New Zealand	1994–95 2000–01 06 09 13 17 21–22	
Norway	1994–95 97–98 2000–01 03–09 12–22	2023–25
Portugal	1994–96 2005–07 13 18 24	
Spain	1996 98–99 2002 07 10 13 15–16 21–22	
Sweden	1995–97 1999–2003 04–06 08–17 19–20 22–24	2025–27
Switzerland	1996–97 1999–2000 02–04 08 10 12 14 16 18 20 22	
Türkiye	2002 05–06 09 16 19 23	
UK	1994–95 97–99 2002–04 06–07 09–11 13–15 17–19 21–23	2024–26
USA	1994–2019 21–22	2023–25

Bureau for 2025

President
Andrés Montalvo Sosa, Ecuador

Vice-Presidents
Cornel Feruță, Romania
Jonibek Ismoil Hikmat, Tajikistan
Karl Lagatie, Belgium
Tesfaye Yilma Sabo, Ethiopia

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 11 members to serve three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2026 and expiring on 31 December 2028: Rwanda (African states); China and Nepal (Asia–Pacific states); Armenia and Estonia (Eastern European states); Bolivia and Cuba (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Finland, Japan, Norway and the USA (Western European and Other states). It also elected Monaco, New Zealand and Türkiye to complete the terms of Austria, Luxembourg and Ireland, respectively, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026, and Switzerland to complete the term of Belgium, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027.

1 The Western European and Other states group has had its own rotation scheme since 26 April 2006, under which some of its members do not serve a full three-year term. The USA does not participate in this rotation scheme. The current terms listed reflect the rotation scheme as at July 2025.

UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

605 Third Ave
New York, NY 10158
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 297 5000

Email: hq@unfpa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNFPA
X: @UNFPA
Instagram: @UNFPA

Website: www.unfpa.org
Executive Director: Diene Keita, Guinea (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2025)

Purpose

UNFPA addresses population and development issues, with a strong emphasis on reproductive health and gender equality, as well as on advancing the rights and opportunities of young

people. It is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. Two frameworks guide UNFPA's efforts: the Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UNFPA Strategic Plan 2022–25 was approved in July 2021 by the Executive Board of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)/UNFPA/UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The Plan reaffirms the relevance of the current strategic direction of UNFPA. It calls for urgent action to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, realize reproductive rights for all, and accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD. UNFPA works in close collaboration with other development and humanitarian agencies, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Evolution

Originally called the UN Fund for Population Activities, and under the management of the UNDP Administrator, UNFPA was set up as a trust fund by the UN Secretary-General in 1967 after GA res. 2211 (XXI) (1966) called on UN system organizations to provide assistance in the field of population. GA res. 3019 (XXVII) (1972) gave UNFPA a separate identity and designated the UNDP Governing Council as its governing body. ECOSOC res. 1763 (LIV) (1973) set down UNFPA's aims and purposes, and tasked it with playing a leading UN role in promoting population programmes. In 1987, the name of UNFPA was changed to the United Nations Population Fund, but its official abbreviation remained the same.

GA res. 48/162 (1993) transformed the governing body of UNDP/UNFPA into the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. Other significant resolutions and decisions include: ECOSOC res. 2025 (LXI) (1976); GA res. 34/104 (1979); UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision 95/15 (1995); Executive Board decision 2000/11 (2000); GA res. 64/219 (2010); and Executive Board decision 2017/9 (2017).

Structure

UNFPA is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly. It is governed by decisions adopted by the UNDP Governing Council (1973–93) and the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board (1994 to present). UNFPA reports through the Executive Board to ECOSOC, which in turn reports to the General Assembly.

UNFPA headquarters are in New York. The Fund works in over 150 countries, territories and other areas through a network of 121 country and territory offices, plus six regional, two sub-regional and eight representational offices.

Committee for the UN Population Award

Website: www.unfpa.org/public/home/about/popaward

Purpose

The Committee presents an annual award to an individual(s) and/or institution(s) in recognition of outstanding contributions to increasing the awareness of population questions and to their solutions. The Award was established by the General Assembly in November 1981 (GA res. 36/201) and was first presented in 1983. It consists of a gold medal, diploma and monetary prize. Nominations for the award are accepted through to 31 December of each year.

Varsha Deshpande, Founder, Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal of India, and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) were selected as laureates of the award in 2025.

Structure

The Committee comprises representatives of 10 UN Member States elected by ECOSOC, usually for three calendar years, as well as a representative of the UN Secretary-General and the UNFPA Executive Director as ex officio members. The UNFPA Executive Director is the designated Secretary of the Committee. The Committee selects laureates on the basis of their significant contributions to population-related activities.

Members elected by ECOSOC for 2025–27 (10)

Antigua and Barbuda
Belgium
Bulgaria
Burundi
Cyprus
Gambia
Guatemala
Mauritania
Two vacancies as at 1 July 2025

UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

304 E 45th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10017
United States of America
Telephone: +1 212 906 6565
Fax: +1 212 906 6479

Email: info@uncdf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNCDF
X: @UNCDF
Instagram: @UNCDF
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/uncdf

Website: www.uncdf.org
Executive Secretary: Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Sri Lanka (appointed by the UNDP Administrator; took office in April 2024)

Purpose

UNCDF mobilizes and catalyses an increase in capital flows for impactful investments in high-risk markets, especially least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and fragile settings. By crowding in capital through the deployment of risk-absorbing financial instruments, mechanisms and structuring advisory, UNCDF contributes to job creation, sustained economic growth and equitable prosperity. In partnership with UN entities and development partners, UNCDF operates with speed and agility to deliver scalable, blended finance solutions to drive systemic change and pave the way for commercial finance and development finance institutions (DFIs).

As a non-credit-rated hybrid development and finance organization, UNCDF acts as an off-balance-sheet de-risker for national governments and DFIs and is uniquely positioned to unlock domestic resources and attract substantial private finance in underserved markets.

UNCDF's investment toolkit includes grant-funded guarantees, concessional finance instruments and performance-based payments. These tools expand financial access for underserved communities while also facilitating their transition to sustainable, commercially viable financing.

Structure

UNDCF was created in 1966 by the General Assembly. It is an autonomous, voluntarily funded UN organization, affiliated with the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Since 1967, the UNDP Administrator has also held the role of Managing Director of UNCDF, with the Executive Secretary taking primary responsibility for overseeing UNCDF's day-to-day operations and programs. The UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board also functions as the UNCDF Executive Board.

Similar to UNDP, UNCDF receives contributions from Member States and international development partners. The financial architecture of UNCDF is comprised of core voluntary contributions, flexible non-core funding and earmarked funds. In the past decade, UNCDF's annual financing has more than doubled.

In 2024, UNCDF supported sustainable financing initiatives in 78 countries, including almost all the LDCs (43 out of 44) and 21 fragile countries. It issued over $22.1 million in loans, guarantees and grants to public and private entities. These investments helped to support governments, communities and local businesses through the development of their local economies, creating thousands of jobs, strengthening livelihoods and enabling access to affordable finance. They accounted for approximately 26 percent of the year's disbursements.

The top five overall contributors were the USA, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, Switzerland, UNDP and Luxembourg.

UNCDF's headquarters are in New York and it has regional offices in Dakar, Senegal, Nairobi, Kenya, and Bangkok, Thailand.

UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 646 781 4400
Fax: +1 646 781 4444
X: @UN_Women

Website: www.unwomen.org
Executive Director: Sima Sami Bahous, Jordan (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in September 2021)

Purpose

UN-Women was established in July 2010 by the General Assembly (res. 64/289) to improve the coordination and coherence of work on gender equality and women's empowerment. It functions as a secretariat, carries out operational activities at the country level and promotes more effective gender mainstreaming across the UN system.

The main functions of UN-Women are to:

- Support intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms
- Support Member States as they implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it and to forge effective partnerships with civil society
- Lead, coordinate and promote the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment.

UN-Women's priorities are:

- Global norms, policies and standards for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls
- Women's leadership and participation
- Women's economic empowerment
- Ending all violence against women and girls
- Women's leadership in peace and security and humanitarian action.

Several international agreements guide the work of UN-Women: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA); UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) and subsequent resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019) and 2493 (2019); the Sustaining Peace resolutions (GA res. 70/262 (2016) and SC res. 2282 (2016)); and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The establishment of UN-Women was part of efforts to improve UN system-wide coherence that came from the World Summit of global leaders in 2005 when the UN Secretary-General was asked to undertake reforms within the UN on system-wide coherence related to operational activities for development. The goal was to have a stronger focus on operational outcomes at country and regional levels and more efficient operational practices. Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women was part of this.

Structure

UN-Women provides support to intergovernmental policy and normative processes and operates at the country level to support Member States, at their request. It is headed by the Executive Director/Under-Secretary-General. A multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure, comprising the General Assembly, ECOSOC and the CSW, provides normative policy guidance to the Entity. The Executive Board is the governing body providing operational policy guidance to UN-Women.

The Executive Board functions are aligned with GA res. 48/162 (1993). Among its duties, the Board adopts the UN-Women strategic plan and budget, and engages with the executive boards of other UN development agencies to coordinate work across the UN system. The primary functions of the Board's Bureau are to prepare and organize board meetings, facilitate transparent decision-making and promote dialogue in decision-making.

Meetings

The first regular session of the Executive Board is usually held in February, the annual session in June and a second regular session in September. Joint meetings are also held with the Executive Boards of the UN Development Programme (UNDP)/UN Population Fund (UNFPA)/ UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Membership

Executive Board members are elected by ECOSOC from among UN Member States, usually for three-year terms beginning 1 January. GA res. 64/289 (2010) specified there should be 41 members on the Board, with 35 representing the five regional groups (as noted in the following list), and six seats reserved for the top contributing countries.

The Executive Board Bureau is composed of one president and four vice-presidents elected by the Board from members at the first regular session each year, taking into account equitable geographical representation.

Executive Board members (41)*

	Previous	Current
African states (10 seats)		
Algeria	2013–15	
Angola	2011–13 19–21	
Burkina Faso	2017–19	2023–25
Burundi	2020–22	
Cabo Verde	2011–13	2025–27
Cameroon	2017–19 22–24	
Comoros	2016–18	
Congo	2011–13	
Côte d'Ivoire	2011–12	2023–25
Djibouti	2013–15	
DR Congo	2011–12	
Egypt	2022–24	
Equatorial Guinea	2014–16 19–21	2025–27
Eritrea		2023–25
Eswatini	2020–22	
Ethiopia	2011–13	
Gabon	2013–18	2023–25
Gambia	2013–15 22–24	
Ghana	2019–21	
Kenya	2019–24	
Lesotho	2011–12	
Liberia	2016–18	
Libya	2011–12	
Madagascar	2020–22	
Malawi	2013–15	
Mauritania		2025–27
Morocco	2019–21	
Namibia	2016–18	
Nigeria	2011–13 17–22	
Rwanda	2017–19	
Senegal	2014–16	
Sierra Leone	2020–22	
Somalia	2014–16	
South Africa	2014–16 22–24	2025–27
Togo	2014–16	
Tunisia	2016–18	
Uganda		2025–27
UR of Tanzania	2011–12	
Zambia	2017–19	
Zimbabwe		2023–25
Asia–Pacific states (10 seats)		
Afghanistan	2022–24	
Bahrain	2017–19	
Bangladesh	2011–12 14–16 19–24	
China	2011–22	2023–25
India	2011–12 14–16 19–24	2025–27
Indonesia	2011–13	
Iran	2016–18	
Japan	2011–22	2023–25
Kazakhstan	2011–13 20–22	

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Kyrgysztan 2025–27
Lebanon 2020–22
Malaysia 2011–12
Maldives 2013–15
Mongolia 2019–21
Nepal 2019–21 2025–27
Pakistan 2011–12 16–18
Philippines 2013–15
Qatar 2023–25
ROK 2011–22 2023–25
Samoa 2016–18
Saudi Arabia 2019–21 2025–27
Solomon Islands 2013–15
Tajikistan 2023–25
Thailand 2013–15 22–24
Timor-Leste 2011–12
Turkmenistan 2016–18 22–24
UAE 2013–18
Viet Nam 2025–27
Yemen 2017–19

Eastern European states (4 seats)

Albania 2025–27
Belarus 2017–19
Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014–16
Bulgaria 2023–25
Croatia 2016–18
Estonia 2011–12
Georgia 2019–21
Hungary 2011–13 19–21
Latvia 2013–15 2023–25
Lithuania 2020–22
Montenegro 2017–19
Poland 2014–16 22–24
Russian Federation 2011–18 20–22
Ukraine 2011–13 22–24 2025–27

Latin American and the Caribbean states (6 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda 2016–18 2025–27
Argentina 2011–12 20–22
Bolivia 2025–27
Brazil 2011–12 13–15 17–22
Chile 2019–21
Colombia 2014–16 19–24
Cuba 2014–16 19–21
Dominican Republic 2011–13 22–24
El Salvador 2011–12 17–19
Grenada 2011–13
Guyana 2016–18 22–24
Mexico 2020–22
Panama 2016–18 2023–25
Paraguay 2023–25
Peru 2011–13 2025–27
Suriname 2014–16
Trinidad and Tobago 2017–19 2023–25
Uruguay 2013–15
Venezuela 2013–15

Western European and Other states (5 seats, some rotating)[1]

Andorra	2021	
Australia	2013–14 19 22 24	
Austria	2013	
Belgium	2013 17 20 24	
Canada	2012 16 18 20	2025
Denmark	2016–17 20–22	2025
Finland	2012 18–19	
France	2011 17 23	
Germany	2015 16–17 21	
Iceland	2014 20–22	
Ireland	2013 19 23	
Israel	2015	
Italy	2011 14 15 21 23	
Liechtenstein	2014	
Luxembourg	2011 16–17 21 24–25	
Monaco	2022	
Netherlands	2012 18 20–22	2025–27
New Zealand	2012 14 18 20 23	
Portugal	2015 18	
Spain	2016	
Sweden	2011 19	2024–25
Switzerland	2013 20 23	
Türkiye	2015 19 24	
UK		2025–27
USA	2012	

Contributing countries (6 seats, some rotating)[1]

Members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/ Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

Denmark	2011 15	
Finland	2021	2023–25
Germany		2023–25
Netherlands	2016	
Norway	2019–22	2023–25
Spain	2014–15	
Sweden	2016 20–22	
Switzerland	2017–19	
UK	2011–22	
USA	2011 13 17–22	2023–25

Contributing countries not members of the OECD/DAC

Chile	2017–18	
Israel	2017 19	
Mexico	2014–16	
Saudi Arabia	2014–16	
Senegal	2020–22	2023–25
Türkiye	2018 20–22	
UAE	2019	2023–25

Bureau for 2025

President
Nicola Clase, Sweden

Vice-Presidents
Suela Janina, Albania
Godfrey Kwoba, Uganda
Umetsu Shigeru, Japan
Walton Alfonso Webson, Antigua and Barbados

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected 10 members for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2026 and expiring on 31 December 2028: Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Rwanda and Senegal (African states); China, Japan, Philippines and ROK (Asia–Pacific states); Russian Federation (Eastern European states); and Colombia (Latin American and Caribbean states). On 10 June 2025, ECOSOC elected Bahrain (Asia–Pacific states) for the same term. It postponed the election of seven members for the same term: one from the African states group, one from the Eastern European states group, two from the Latin American and Caribbean states group, and three from the Western European and Other states group.

1 The Western European and Other states group (WEOG) has its own rotation scheme under which some of its members do not serve a full three-year term. Contributing countries from WEOG also have their own rotation scheme under which some countries do not serve a full three-year term. The current terms listed reflect the rotation schemes as at July 2025.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

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Germany
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Fax: +49 228 815 2001
Facebook: www.facebook.com/unvolunteers
X: @unvolunteers
Instagram: @unvolunteers
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-volunteers
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/unv
TikTok: @unitednationsvolunteers

Website: www.unv.org
Executive Coordinator: Toily Kurbanov, Russian Federation (appointed by the UNDP Administrator, took office in January 2021)

Purpose

UNV provides global citizens with an opportunity to volunteer across the three pillars of the UN system: development; peace and security; and human rights. It was created as an operational partner in international development (GA res. 2659 (XXV) (1970)). Administered by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNV advocates for recognition of volunteers, works with partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming and helps to mobilize volunteers throughout the world.

UNV engages the UN system, Member States, civil society and the private sector in promoting an environment conducive to volunteerism and volunteers, thus enhancing the sustainability of development results. Through its UNV Strategic Framework, it seeks to leverage volunteerism and volunteers for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2024, there were over 14,600 UN Volunteers in the field in 170 countries, representing 181 nationalities. In addition, there were requests for about 23,000 Online Volunteers to support online assignments.

Every three years, UNV produces the State of the World's Volunteerism Report, a flagship UN publication designed to strengthen understanding on volunteerism and demonstrate its universality, scope and reach in the 21st century. International Volunteer Day (IVD), on 5 December, was designated by the UN in 1985 as an international observance day to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism.

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

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Kenya

Telephone: +254 20 762 1234
Email: unepinfo@unep.org
Telex: 22068, 22173
X: @UNEP

Website: https://unep.org/

Executive Director: Inger Andersen, Denmark (since 2019; confirmed by the UN General Assembly in February 2023 for a second four-year term from 15 June 2023)

Purpose

UNEP is the leading global authority on the environment. It unites 193 Member States in an effort to find solutions to climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, collectively known as the triple planetary crisis. Through scientific studies, policy support, intergovernmental coordination and public advocacy, UNEP helps humanity to foster climate stability, live in harmony with nature and forge a pollution-free future, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNEP was established by GA res. 2997 (XXVII) (1972) following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. In 1997, the Governing Council adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the UN Environment Programme, which established UNEP's core mandate (UNEP/GC/DEC/19/1). In 2005, the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building. In 2010, the Council/Forum adopted the Nusa Dua Declaration, in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20 Conference, in 2012. Information about the Rio+20 outcome document 'The Future We Want' is at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html.

Structure

The 2012 Rio+20 outcome document established universal membership of the then-named Governing Council. It had previously comprised 58 members elected by the UN General Assembly, as outlined in GA res. 2997 (XXVII) (1972). The first universal session of the Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum was held in Nairobi in February 2013 (GA res. 67/213 (2012)), where decisions included a recommendation to the General Assembly to change the designation and rename the Governing Council the 'United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA/Environment Assembly) of the United Nations Environment Programme'.
This name was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/251 of 13 March 2013.

The 2013 session (decision 27/2; OP 9) also decided to have an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) as the subsidiary intersessional body of the UNEP governing body and to convene the Environment Assembly in Nairobi every two years, starting in 2014.

UNEA's functions include setting the global environmental agenda; providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges; undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences; setting strategic guidance on the future direction of UNEP; organizing leadership and multi-stakeholder dialogues; and fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resource mobilization. The Assembly reports to the General Assembly through ECOSOC.

UNEP is funded by regular budget allocations from the UN and the Environment Fund, as well as voluntary contributions from trusts and foundations and global funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund.

Meetings

The Environment Assembly meets every two years in Nairobi. UNEA-7 is scheduled to be held in Nairobi from 8 to 12 December 2025.

Membership

Since the establishment of the universal membership in 2013, all 193 UN Member States have been members of the Environment Assembly. The current Bureau was elected at the end of UNEA-6 on 1 March 2024.

The CPR consists of the representatives of: all UN Member States, UN specialized agencies, the European Community and those accredited to the UNEP, whether based in Nairobi or not. Non-member states participate as observers. The CPR Bureau consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur, representing each of the UN regions.

Bureau of the Environment Assembly (1 March 2024 to 12 December 2025)

President
Abdullah Bin Ali Al-Amri, Oman

Vice-Presidents
Fitsum Assefa Adela, Ethiopia
Juan Carlos Castro Vargas, Peru
Ali Gholampour, Iran
Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Sweden
Peter Maddens, Belgium
Mike Mposha, Zambia
Anikó Raisz, Hungary
Nino Tandilashvili, Georgia

Rapporteur
Joyelle Clarke, Saint Kitts and Nevis

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency)

Case Postale 2500
CH-1211 Genève 2 Dépôt
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 739 8111

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNHCR
X: @Refugees
Instagram: @refugees

Website: www.unhcr.org
High Commissioner: Filippo Grandi, Italy (since January 2016; elected by the UN General Assembly on the nomination of the Secretary-General in November 2015 and term of office extended in August 2022 until 31 December 2025)

Purpose

UNHCR works to provide international protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern within its mandate and to seek durable solutions to their plight in cooperation with governments. With these aims, the Office promotes the conclusion and ratification of international conventions, advocates access to asylum, obtains from governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees and the laws concerning them, and facilitates the coordination of humanitarian assistance. A crucial aspect of UNHCR's work is preventing refoulement (the involuntary return of a refugee or a person of concern to a country where he or she may have a well-founded fear of persecution) and supporting host countries, particularly those hosting large numbers of refugees.

With respect to stateless persons, UNHCR's initial mandate is set out in the Statute of the Office and Article 1 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. In accordance with GA res. 3274 (XXIX) (1974) and GA res. 31/36 (1976), UNHCR has been designated, pursuant to Articles 11 and 20 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as the body to which a person claiming the benefits of this Convention may apply for examination of their claim and for assistance in presenting it to the relevant authorities. Activities on behalf of stateless persons therefore include the identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness, and the protection of stateless persons.

The General Assembly has authorized UNHCR to conduct operations under certain circumstances to protect and assist internally displaced persons. In the early 1990s, it clarified UNHCR's role by setting out formal criteria for the Office's involvement. In 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee developed an inter-agency coordination approach for responding to internally displaced persons, under which UNHCR assumes global cluster leadership for protection, and co-leadership for camp coordination and management and emergency shelter. Today, the Office is guided by the Policy on UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement (UNHCR/HCP/2019/1), the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement and other relevant frameworks.

Evolution

UNHCR was established in the wake of World War II to help Europeans displaced by conflict. In 1949, the UN General Assembly decided to appoint a High Commissioner for Refugees (GA res. 319 (IV) (1949)). The High Commissioner's mandate is embedded in public international law and in international treaty law. The obligation of states to cooperate with the High Commissioner is explicitly mentioned in international and regional legal instruments for the protection of refugees, notably the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. The 1951 Convention is the key legal document in defining who is a refugee and their rights. The 1967 Protocol removed geographical and temporal restrictions from this Convention.

In 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (GA res. 71/1). UNHCR subsequently led two years of extensive consultations to develop the Global Compact on Refugees, which was presented as part of the High Commissioner's annual report to the General Assembly in 2018. In December 2018, the Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees (GA res. 73/151), reflecting the will of the international community to strengthen cooperation and solidarity with refugees and the countries that host them.

Structure

UNHCR's governing body, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), determines the general policies under which UNHCR plans, develops and administers refugee programmes and operations around the world; and advises the High Commissioner, on request, on the discharge of their duties under the Statute of the Office. There are 110 ExCom members as at July 2025. New members may be admitted by ECOSOC through the General Assembly. A Bureau is elected at the end of each annual plenary session of ExCom.

Meetings

ExCom holds an annual plenary session in Geneva, usually in October, to discuss programmes, budgets and other key issues, and approves the use of funds to carry out activities. ExCom members also meet in intersessional meetings of the Standing Committee, which was established to carry on ExCom's work between plenary sessions.

Executive Committee members (110)

Afghanistan	Belarus	Chile
Algeria	Belgium	China
Angola	Benin	Colombia
Argentina	Brazil	Congo
Armenia	Bulgaria	Costa Rica
Australia	Burkina Faso	Côte d'Ivoire
Austria	Cameroon	Croatia
Azerbaijan	Canada	Cyprus
Bangladesh	Chad	Czechia

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DR Congo
Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
India
Iran
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Malta
Mexico
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
ROK
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Senegal
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
UK
UR of Tanzania
USA
Uruguay
Venezuela
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Executive Committee Bureau for Oct 2024 to Oct 2025

Chair
Marcelo Vázquez Bermúdez, Ecuador

Vice-Chairs
Bilal Ahmad, Pakistan

Tsegab Kebebew Daka, Ethiopia

Rapporteur
Lisa Advani, UK

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

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Headquarters Gaza
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Palestinian Territory
Telephone: +972 8 288 7701/7709
Fax: +972 8 288 7699

UNRWA Representative Office, New York
2 UN Plaza, 2nd Floor
Room DC2 0205–08
Telephone: +1 212 963 2255
Email: unrwaofficenewyork@un.org

Website: www.unrwa.org

Commissioner-General: Philippe Lazzarini, Switzerland (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in consultation with members of UNRWA's Advisory Commission in March 2020; mandate renewed for a further three-year term in March 2023)

Purpose

UNRWA is the main provider of development and humanitarian services to millions of registered Palestine refugees in the Middle East. The Agency was established by GA res. 302 (IV) (1949), following the 1948 Arab–Israeli conflict, to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees, pending a just and lasting solution to their plight. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950. In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee situation, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2026 (GA res. 77/123 (2022)). The Agency operates in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), namely the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

UNRWA defines eligible Palestine refugees as persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. In line with international law and the principle of family unity, which establishes that the children of refugees and their descendants are also considered refugees until a durable solution is found, UNRWA also recognizes descendants of Palestine refugees as refugees. In addition to Palestine refugees, the General Assembly has mandated UNRWA to offer services to certain other persons who require humanitarian assistance, on an emergency basis as and when required, in UNRWA's fields of operations.

UNRWA's human development and humanitarian services encompass basic and vocational education, primary health care, relief and social services, protection, infrastructure and camp improvement, microfinance and emergency response, including in situations of armed conflict. UNRWA is committed to upholding human rights and fostering the human development of Palestine refugees by supporting them to acquire knowledge and skills; to lead long and healthy lives; and to achieve decent standards of living.

Since 2000, UNRWA has provided emergency assistance to Palestine refugees in the OPT. Since 2012, UNRWA has also provided emergency assistance to Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and who are affected by interrelated conflicts, layered displacement and deep economic crisis. UNRWA works closely with host authorities to mitigate the impact of emerging crises, such as pandemics, armed conflict and natural disasters, on Palestine refugees.

The Agency is the largest UN operation in the Middle East and is unique in that it delivers services directly to beneficiaries. It has approximately 32,000 personnel, almost all of whom are Palestine refugees themselves, working directly to benefit their communities as teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers or in other practical capacities. UNRWA's operations are financed almost entirely by voluntary contributions from donors to its Programme Budget, Emergency Appeals, ad hoc Flash Appeals and projects. In 2024, total funding pledged was approximately US$1.4 billion (all portals included), down from US$1.46 billion in 2023. This amounted to only 51 percent of total financial requirements for 2024, compared with 60.5 percent in 2023. For 2025, the Agency is seeking US$3.3 billion to run essential services and provide emergency aid to Palestine refugees across the Middle East. Only 18 percent of the US$3.3 billion is confirmed in pledges so far.

Structure

- Headquarters: the Commissioner-General is appointed by the UN Secretary-General after consultation with the UN General Assembly's Advisory Commission on UNRWA for a three-year renewable term, and is the only head of a UN body to report directly to the General Assembly. UNRWA Headquarters are located in Gaza City and Amman.
- The General Assembly's Advisory Commission on UNRWA (AdCom): the AdCom was established under the same General Assembly resolution as UNRWA (GA res. 302 (IV) (1949)). It provides advice and assistance to the Commissioner-General in carrying out the Agency's mandate. Consisting of four Member States and three host governments when first created, today it comprises 29 members and four observers.

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- Field offices and representative offices: UNRWA has five field offices, located in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Each office is headed by a director who is accountable to the Commissioner-General. UNRWA also maintains representative offices in New York, Washington DC, Brussels (covering Europe) and Cairo.

Meetings

The Commissioner-General submits an annual report to the General Assembly, followed by an annual statement to the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly (also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee) is made every year in early November. GA res. 1729 (XVI) provides for the annual convening of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to UNRWA at the so-called UNRWA Pledging Conference. The AdCom meets twice a year, usually in June and November. The Chair and Vice-Chairs, representing a host country and two donor countries, are appointed annually for terms beginning 1 July. Members and Observers meet more regularly through the Sub-Committee of the Advisory Commission, where they aim to assist the AdCom in the fulfilment of its guidance to the Commissioner-General.

Advisory Commission members (29)

Australia (since 2005)
Belgium (since 1953) (Vice-Chair July 2025 to June 2026)
Brazil (since 2014) (Chair July 2025 to June 2026)
Canada (since 2005)
Denmark (since 2005)
Egypt (since 1949) (Vice-Chair July 2025 to June 2026)
Finland (since 2008)
France (since 1949)
Germany (since 2005)
India (since 2020)
Iraq (since 2024)
Ireland (since 2008)
Italy (since 2005)
Japan (since 1973)
Jordan (since 1949)
Kuwait (since 2010)
Lebanon (since 1953)
Luxembourg (since 2012)
Netherlands (since 2005)
Norway (since 2005)
Qatar (since 2019)
Saudi Arabia (since 2005)
Spain (since 2005)
Sweden (since 2005)
Switzerland (since 2005)
Syrian AR (since 1949)
Türkiye (since 1949)
UAE (since 2014)
UK (since 1949)

Observers (4)

European Union (since 2005)
League of Arab States (since 2005)
State of Palestine (since 2005)
Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (since 2019)

UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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Instagram: @UNHABITAT
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/un-habitat-united-nation-human-settlements-programme-

Website: www.unhabitat.org
Executive Director: Anacláudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach, Brazil (elected by the General Assembly in June 2024 and appointed by the UN Secretary-General in June 2024 for a four-year term)

Purpose

UN-Habitat is the leading programme on sustainable urban development and human settlements. It is mandated by the General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities of all sizes, advocating for adequate shelter for all.

UN-Habitat's objective is to achieve a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world. Working in over 90 countries, the programme promotes sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace to improve living conditions for all. The programme supports a human-rights-based approach to urban development and human settlements that focuses on reduced poverty and spatial inequality, enhanced shared prosperity, climate action and urban environment and effective urban crisis prevention and response. UN-Habitat aims to improve the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers. It is also tasked with supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing the involvement of local people, including vulnerable communities, in decision-making concerning urban issues.

Since the Habitat III conference in October 2016, UN-Habitat is also the lead UN agency for implementation of the New Urban Agenda, a framework to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 that also addresses other urban dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This framework outlines the ways in which cities should be managed and planned with the aim of providing inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities for all.

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan for 2020–25* focuses on four domains of change: reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban–rural continuum; enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and effective urban crisis prevention and response. In May 2025, Member States adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2026–29 aimed at addressing the global housing crisis, which affects nearly 3 billion people globally. The plan focuses on enabling access to housing, land and basic services.

The Programme marries normative work with technical cooperation in the field. UN-Habitat helps governments of partner countries at all levels to improve the quality of urban planning and management so that cities can become more resilient against disaster and ensure people can access adequate and affordable housing. UN-Habitat is involved in the large-scale response to humanitarian emergencies, including supporting the overall response to COVID-19 in more than 250 cities, post-explosion recovery in Beirut, the migration crisis in Venezuela and neighbouring countries, post-earthquake reconstructions in Iran, the consequences of conflicts in Afghanistan and Burkina Faso and the aftermath of the earthquake in Myanmar. UN-Habitat prioritizes the poorest and the most vulnerable communities, including people in informal settlements, women, children, youth, migrants and the displaced.

UN-Habitat's key advocacy initiatives and platforms include the World Urban Forum, a biannual non-legislative event with over 25,000 participants; Urban October, starting with World Habitat Day and ending with World Cities Day; and the World Urban Campaign, which brings together more than 250 partners from 16 constituencies.

Evolution

Originally known as the UN Centre for Human Settlements, the UN Commission on Human Settlements (Habitat) was established by GA res. 32/162 (1977). GA res. 56/206 (2001) transformed the Commission and its Secretariat into the Governing Council of the UN Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly under ECOSOC. The other main documents outlining the organization's mandate are the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat Agenda (para. 222) and Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements (1996), and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium (GA res. S-25/2, annex (2001)).

Structure

In December 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/239, which dissolved the UN-Habitat Governing Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and replaced it with the UN-Habitat Assembly. UN-Habitat has a three-tier governance structure made up of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR).

The UN-Habitat Assembly is a universal body composed of all 193 UN Member States. It provides policy guidance on human settlements and sustainable urbanization, as well as strategic oversight of UN-Habitat, and approves the four-year strategic plan.* It reports every four years to the General Assembly through ECOSOC at its substantive session. Its intersessional bodies are the Executive Board and the CPR. The Executive Board comprises 36 members elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly for a term of four years* to ensure the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of UN-Habitat's work. It has authority to submit periodic reports to the UN General Assembly through ECOSOC on issues pertinent to the Executive Board's mandate in years when the UN-Habitat Assembly is not in session. The CPR is composed of all Permanent Representatives of UN Member States and members of the UN specialized agencies that are accredited to UN-Habitat. Its Bureau is elected every two years* and is listed on the website.

UN-Habitat's budget comes from multilateral and bilateral partners for technical cooperation, governments and other partners, including local authorities and foundations, and about 5 percent from the UN regular budget.

Meetings

The UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA) meets every four years for five days. Its first meeting was held from 27 to 31 May 2019 and its second from 5 to 9 June 2023, both in Nairobi. On 8 June 2023, the Assembly decided to adjourn its second regular session to align UN-Habitat's planning cycle with the UN's quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities. The resumed second session was held from 29 to 30 May 2025 in Nairobi. The CPR meets twice every four years in an open-ended manner – once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly for preparation of the session and a second time for a high-level mid-term review meeting, most recently from 26 to 28 May 2025. The Executive Board meets two to three times a year.

Executive Board Members (36)*

	Previous*	Current
African states (10 seats)		
Algeria	2019–25	2025–29
Angola	2019–25	
Burkina Faso		2025–29
Burundi		2025–29
Cameroon	2019–25	2025–29
Djibouti		2025–29
DR Congo	2019–25	
Egypt	2019–25	2025–29
Ethiopia	2019–25	
Kenya	2019–25	
Malawi	2019–25	
Morocco	2019–25	
Mozambique		2025–29
Nigeria	2019–25	2025–29
Senegal	2019–25	
Somalia		2025–29
Zimbabwe		2025–29
Asia–Pacific states (8 seats)*		
Bahrain	2021–25*	
China	2019–25	2025–29
India	2019–25	
Indonesia	2019–21*	2025–29

Iran	2019–25	2025–29
Iraq		2025–29
Japan	2019–25	2025–29
Pakistan	2019–25	2025–29
ROK	2019–25	2025–29
Sri Lanka	2019–25	
UAE		2025–27*

Eastern European states (4 seats)

Azerbaijan		2025–29
Poland	2019–25	
Romania	2019–25	
Russian Federation	2019–25	2025–29
Serbia	2019–25	
Slovakia		2025–29
Ukraine		2025–29

Latin American and Caribbean states (6 seats)

Argentina	2019–25	
Barbados		2025–29
Brazil	2019–25	2025–29
Chile	2019–25	
Colombia		2025–29
Costa Rica	2019–25	
Mexico	2019–25	2025–29
Peru		2025–29
Uruguay	2019–25	2025–29

Western European and Other states (8 seats)*

Canada	2019–25	
France	2019–25	2025–29
Germany	2019–25	2025–29
Portugal	2019–25	2025–29
Spain	2019–25	2025–29
Sweden	2019–25	2025–29
Türkiye	2019–25	2025–29
USA	2019–25	2025–29

Previous Governing Council Members (until May 2019)

African states (16 seats)

Algeria	1983–85 1996–2003 11–14
Angola	2016–19[1]
Benin	1978–80 1996–2003 13–19[1]
Botswana	1985–95
Burkina Faso	2003–06 08–11 12–15
Burundi	1978–83 85–91 2003–10
Cameroon	1979–81 1987–2002 19[1]
Central African Republic	1978–80 84–86 2011–14
Chad	2016–19[1]
Congo	2004–11 12–15
Côte d'Ivoire	2009–12
DR Congo	1986–88 1999–2006 15–18
Egypt	1977–82 88–94 2001–04 15–18
Equatorial Guinea	2007–10
Eswatini	1981–83 86–92 2004–11
Ethiopia	1997–2004 09–12
Gabon	1984–90 1995–2002 11–14 15–18
Gambia	1995–2002

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Ghana 1984–86 92–95 2005–08 15–18
Guinea 1981–86 2001–04
Kenya 1979–2003 04–11 16–19[1]
Lesotho 1980–82 85–87 89–96 2012–15
Liberia 1982–84 1997–2000 19[1]
Libya 1983–85 93–96 2005–08 17–19[1]
Madagascar 1987–90 93–96 2001–04 13–19[1]
Malawi 1979–81 1986–2000 03–06
Mali 1999–2002 11–14
Mauritania 2007–10 19[1]
Mauritius 2017–19[1]
Morocco 1982–84 86–88 2000–03 13–16
Mozambique 2011–14
Namibia 1997–2000
Niger 2007–10
Nigeria 1977–88 91–98 2004–07 11–14 16–19[1]
Rwanda 1978–80 84–86 2005–12
Senegal 1979–81 1999–2010 15–18
Sierra Leone 1977–85 87–94 2003–06
Somalia 1981–83 89–96 2013–19[1]
South Africa 2004–07 12–19[1]
Sudan 1978–80 82–84 92–99 2009–12
Togo 1979–81 87–90
Tunisia 1977–79 85–87 89–92 96–99 2009–12
Uganda 1977–85 87–98 2000–03 05–08 13–16
UR of Tanzania 1978–86 88–95 2001–04 05–08 12–15
Zambia 1981–83 1997–2000 08–11 19[1]
Zimbabwe 1982–84 91–98 2007–10 15–18

Asia–Pacific states (13 seats)

Afghanistan[2] 2009–12 17–19[1]
Bahrain 2008–11 12–19[1]
Bangladesh 1979–94 1997–2004 05–16
China 1989–2004 05–19[1]
Cyprus 1982–91
India 1979–2011 12–19[1]
Indonesia 1980–2000 03–18
Iran 1978–80 1988–2019[1]
Iraq 1977–81 84–86 89–92 2001–04 08–11 15–19[1]
Japan 1978–2019[1]
Jordan 1979–2007 12–15
Kazakhstan 1995–98 19[1]
Lebanon 1983–85
Malaysia 1977–88 92–95 2000–03 16–19[1]
Nepal 1988
Pakistan 1978–2014
Papua New Guinea 1977–85 93–96
Philippines 1978–90 1992–2007
ROK 1997–2000 09–16 17–19[1]
Saudi Arabia 2004–11 12–19[1]
Sri Lanka 1979–2011 13–19[1]
Syrian AR 1977–79 81–83 89–92
Thailand 2012–15
Turkmenistan 2016–19[1]
UAE 1993–99 2001–04 05–08
Viet Nam 1979–81 1999–2000

Eastern European states (6 seats)[3]

Albania 2011–14
Armenia 2009–12
Azerbaijan 1993–96
Belarus 1982–84 88–95 1997–2000 04–07 14–16
Bulgaria 1977–79 81–90 92–99 2004–07
Croatia 2000–03 17–19[1]
Czechia 1996–2003 05–12 17–19[1]
Georgia 2015–19[1]
Hungary 1980–96
Lithuania 1999–2002
North Macedonia 2001–04
Poland 1979–81 86–88 90–91 1997–2000 03–10 19[1]
Republic of Moldova 2001–04
Romania 1982–84 91–98 2008–11 14–16
Russian Federation 1978–2019[1]
Serbia 2008–11 15–19[1]
Slovakia 2005–08 15–18
Ukraine 1985–87

Latin American and Caribbean states (10 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda 1991–94 2005–16
Argentina 1978–83 87–90 1999–2019[1]
Bahamas 1993–96
Barbados 1981–83 1992–2003
Bolivia 1982–84 86–92 1999–2002
Brazil 1987–2006 08–11 12–19[1]
Chile 1979–87 1991–2014 16–19[1]
Colombia 1977–85 1987–2003 13–19[1]
Costa Rica 1995–98 2004–07
Cuba 1977–85 2009–12
Dominican Republic 1986–88 95–98
Ecuador 1978–80 87–90 1997–2000 03–06 15–18
El Salvador 1982–84 2013–16
Grenada 2007–14
Guatemala 1979–81 89–92 2009–12 15–18
Haiti 1984–86 92–95 2001–04 05–08 12–15
Honduras 1984–86 2008–11
Jamaica 1978–83 85–91 1993–2004 08–11
Mexico 1978–83 1985–2007 12–19[1]
Nicaragua 1984–86
Panama 1986–88
Paraguay 1989–92 2004–07 17–19[1]
Peru 1977–85 88–91
Trinidad and Tobago 2001–08
Uruguay 2015–18
Venezuela 1979–81 84–86 1993–2000 07–14

Western European and Other states (13 seats)

Australia 1979–81
Austria 1977–79 92–95 2001–04
Belgium 1980–82 1997–2004 05–08
Canada 1977–96 2005–08
Denmark 1981–83 86–91 96–99
Finland 1977–79 1981–2002 07–18
France 1977–2004 05–19[1]
Germany 1979–2007 08–11 12–19[1]

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Greece	1979–2007
Israel	2004–11 12–19[1]
Italy	1979–84 1986–2004 07–10 12–15
Netherlands	1977–2000 03–10
New Zealand	1982–84
Norway	1980–2003 05–16 17–19[1]
Portugal	1978–80
Spain	1981–86 1996–2007 09–16 17–19[1]
Sweden	1978–80 1983–2004 05–08 11–14 16–19[1]
Türkiye	1984–2006 11–14 17–19[1]
UK	1978–80 1987–2006
USA	1978–2018

Bureau of the UN-Habitat Assembly (2025–29)*

President	Vice-Presidents	Rapporteur
Malaysia (2025–27)*	Ethiopia Vacant, Eastern European states Vacant, Western European and Other states	Mexico

Notes

* In June 2023, the second UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA2) decided to extend the 2020–23 Strategic Plan until 2025 to align UN-Habitat's planning cycle with the UN's quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities. It also extended the terms of the Executive Board and Bureau members for an additional two years, until the close of the resumed UNHA2 in May 2025. Bahrain and Indonesia shared a seat on the Executive Board for the 2019–23 term, with Indonesia serving from 2019 to 2021 and Bahrain from 2021 to 2023 (extended to 2025).

In May 2025, at the resumed session of UNHA2, Malaysia and UAE were elected to share the 2025–29 Presidency, with Malaysia serving 2025–27 and UAE 2027–29. The two countries will also share a seat on the Executive Board, with the UAE serving 2025–27 and Malaysia 2027–29. As at 1 July 2025, there were two vacancies on the Executive Board, one from the Eastern European states group and one from the Western European and Other states group.

1 Term ended in May 2019, when the Governing Council was dissolved pursuant to GA res. 73/239 (2018).

2 Afghanistan's 2009–12 term began 15 December 2009.

3 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Governing Council from 1978 to 1980 and from 1989 to 1992. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution. Czechoslovakia served on the Governing Council from 1979 to 1981.

World Food Programme (WFP)

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00148 Rome
Italy

Telephone: +39 06 65131
Fax: +39 06 6513 2840
Email: wfpinfo@wfp.org
X: @WFP

Website: www.wfp.org and http://executiveboard.wfp.org
Executive Director: Cindy McCain, USA (appointed jointly by the UN Secretary-General and FAO Director-General in March 2023 for a five-year term)

Purpose

WFP aims to save and change lives. It is among the first on the scene in an emergency, providing food and other assistance to the victims of conflict, drought, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and crop failures, along with outbreaks and pandemics such as COVID-19. At the same time, it keeps a sharp focus on sustainable development, providing governments

with the support and skills to manage food security in the long term. The WFP Strategic Plan (2022–25) aligns WFP with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on ending hunger and contributing to revitalized global partnerships to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It sets out WFP's vision to lift the most vulnerable and marginalized people out of hunger through all of us working together.

Evolution

WFP was established in 1961 by the General Assembly and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference as the UN system's food aid organization. In 2008, WFP was transformed from a food aid organization to a food assistance organization. By GA res. 50/227 (1995), the FAO and the WFP absorbed the functions of the World Food Council, which was discontinued.

Structure

The Executive Board provides intergovernmental support for, policy direction to, and oversight and supervision of, WFP's activities. It reports to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its yearly activities. The Board became effective on 1 January 1996. It replaced the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA), which had been established in 1975 by General Assembly resolutions and the FAO Conference on the recommendation of the 1974 World Food Conference. The CFA had replaced the WFP's Intergovernment Committee (IGC).

Governing body membership was reduced from 42 to 36 when the Executive Board was created. Eighteen members are elected by ECOSOC, usually in April/May, and 18 by the FAO Council, usually in November, from among UN Member States and FAO Member Nations, as set out in Appendix A of the General Regulations. The distribution of seats is set out in Appendix B of the General Regulations (or see 'Distribution of Seats' at http://executiveboard.wfp.org). Each member serves a three-year term, ending 31 December, and is eligible for re-election. The Board elects a bureau at its first session each year, comprising a president, vice-president, three other members and alternates.

WFP is funded by voluntary contributions from governments, corporates and individuals. In 2024, it received US$9.4 billion in contributions, which accounted for 54 percent of its operational requirements of $18.2 billion. Due to the compounded effects of conflict, extreme climate events and economic downturns, as many as 343 million people are facing acute levels of food insecurity in 74 countries with WFP operations and where data is available.

Meetings

The Executive Board meets three times a year in Rome.

Executive Board members (36)*

'Term ends' relates to the standard three-year period. Members may stand down for one or two years within this period, offering their seat to another state member.

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Elected by ECOSOC

Algeria[1]	France	Italy
Ethiopia	Iran	Panama

Elected by the FAO Council

Brazil	Chad[2]	Kenya
Canada	Germany	Saudi Arabia

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Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Elected by ECOSOC

China
Dominican Republic
Japan
Poland
UK
Zambia

Elected by the FAO Council

Gabon[3]
Hungary
Ireland
Mexico[4]
Morocco[5]
Switzerland

Term ends 31 Dec 2027

Elected by ECOSOC

Czechia
India
Mali
Norway
ROK
Sweden

Elected by the FAO Council

Colombia[6]
Côte d'Ivoire[7]
Kuwait[8]
Luxembourg[9]
Qatar[8]
USA

Bureau for 2025

President
Elissa Golberg, Canada (List D)

Vice-President
Berioska Morrison Gonzalez, Dominican Republic (List C)

Members
Roman Diatka, Czechia (List E)

Balaji Jujjavarapu, India (List B)

Fredrick Lusambili Matwang'a, Kenya (List A)

Alternates
List A: Patricia Chisanga Kondolo, Zambia

List B: Manar Sabah Mouhammad Al-Sabah, Kuwait

List C: Vicente Amaral Bezerra, Brazil

List D: Andreas von Brandt, Germany

List E: Zsolt Belánszky-Demkó, Hungary

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected three members to three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2026 and expiring on 31 December 2028: Cuba, Gabon and Kenya (African states). On 10 June 2025, ECOSOC elected Australia and Belgium (Western European and Other states) for the same term. It postponed the election of one further member for the same term. The rotating seat is to be occupied by a country of: List C Fourth Term 2021/2022/2023, List A Fifth Term 2024/2025/2026, and List B Sixth Term 2027/2028/2029.

1 On 5 December 2023, ECOSOC elected Algeria to complete the term of Mauritania, beginning on 1 January 2024 and expiring on 31 December 2025.

2 Gabon and Chad reached an agreement to share a seat, with Gabon serving from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2024 and Chad from 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2025.

3 Zimbabwe and Gabon reached an agreement to share a seat, with Zimbabwe serving in 2024 and Gabon serving in 2025 and 2026.

4 Argentina, Mexico and Chile reached an agreement to share a seat, with Argentina serving in 2024, Mexico in 2025 and Chile in 2026.

5 Morocco and Egypt reached an agreement to share a seat, with Morocco serving in 2024 and 2025 and Egypt in 2026.

6 Colombia and El Salvador reached an agreement to share a seat, with Colombia serving in 2025 and El Salvador in 2026 and 2027.

7 Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria reached an agreement to share a seat, with Côte d'Ivoire serving from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2026 and Nigeria from 1 July 2026 to 31 December 2027.

8 Bangladesh, Kuwait and Qatar reached an agreement to share two seats, with Bangladesh serving in 2026 and 2027, Kuwait in 2025 and 2027, and Qatar in 2025 and 2026.

9 Luxembourg and Finland reached an agreement to share a seat, with Luxembourg serving in 2025 and Finland in 2026 and 2027.

OTHER UN ENTITIES

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 791 3666
Fax: +41 22 791 4187
Email: communications@unaids.org

Website: www.unaids.org
Executive Director: Winnie Byanyima, Uganda (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2019)

Purpose

UNAIDS brings together 11 UN system organizations and a secretariat to help prevent new HIV infections, care for people living with HIV and mitigate the impact of the epidemic.

The Joint Programme was formally established through ECOSOC res. 1994/24. UNAIDS began operation on 1 January 1996. In the preceding year, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the six original Cosponsors of UNAIDS:

- UN Development Programme (UNDP)
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- World Bank.

The following agencies joined in 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2012 respectively:

- UN International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which is now an integral part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

In March 2021, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) adopted the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026 – End Inequalities. End AIDS. To close the gaps that are preventing progress towards ending AIDS, the Strategy aims to reduce these inequalities that drive the AIDS epidemic and prioritize people who are not yet accessing life-saving HIV services. It sets out evidence-based priority actions and bold targets to get every country and every community on track to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. The Global Aids Strategy 2026–2031 is under development, and will be put forward to the 57th PCB Meeting in December 2025 for adoption.

Structure

The organization is guided by the PCB, which serves as its governing body. This comprises 22 UN Member States, five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the 11 Cosponsors. The states are elected by ECOSOC based on equitable geographical distribution, as noted in the list of Board members. Terms usually last three years, beginning on 1 January and ending 31 December of the years shown in the list. Previous members are listed on the website.

The five NGOs, three from developing countries and two from developed countries or countries with economies in transition, represent the perspectives of civil society, including people living with HIV. The NGO representatives serve for up to three years and have non-voting status. The five organizations have one representative each and are supported by five other NGOs, which stand as alternate members. The members of the PCB's NGO delegation are listed on the website.

The UNAIDS Secretariat has offices in more than 70 countries.[1] The headquarters are in Geneva.

Board members (22)*

African states (5 seats)

Burundi	2024–26	Libya	2023–25
Kenya	2023–25	Senegal	2025–27
Lesotho	2025–27		

Asia–Pacific states (5 seats)

Cambodia	2023–25	Iran	2024–26
China	2025–27	Philippines	2025–27*
India	2023–25		

Eastern European states (2 seats)

Belarus	2023–25	Poland	2025–27

Latin American and Caribbean states (3 seats)

Brazil	2023–25	Mexico	2024–26
Haiti	2025–27		

Western European and Other states (7 seats)[2]

Canada	2025–26[2]	Portugal	2025–27
Finland	2024–26	UK	2025–27
France	2024–25[2]	USA	2023–25
Netherlands	2025–27		

NGO delegation 2025

Africa: Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance Uganda / Humanity First Cameroon Plus

Asia–Pacific: Youth LEAD (Asia-Pacific Network for Young Key Populations) / India HIV/AIDS Alliance

Europe: Frontline AIDS / Trans Europe and Central Asia

Latin America–Caribbean: Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) / Llanto, Valor y Esfuerzo (LLAVES)

North America: LetsStopAIDS / National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC)

Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (CCO)

CCO comprises representatives from the 11 Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Cosponsors and the UNAIDS Secretariat. It serves as the forum for the cosponsoring organizations to meet on a regular basis to consider matters concerning UNAIDS and provide input into its policies and strategies. The CCO comprises executive heads, or their designated representatives, and serves as a standing committee of the Programme Coordination Board (PCB). Each co-sponsor rotates as chair annually. The Chair for 2025 is ILO.

Notes

* On 4 April 2025, ECOSOC elected Kenya and Ukraine for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2026. It also elected the Philippines to complete the term of Japan, from 4 April 2025 to 31 December 2027. On 10 June 2025, ECOSOC elected Brazil and Cambodia for a three-year term beginning 1 January 2026. It postponed the election of four members for the same term.

1 In June 2025, the PCB endorsed a revised operating model of the Joint Programme. The PCB also took note of the restructuring of the UNAIDS Secretariat, which included the reduction to offices in 35 countries and a focus on four core functions: leadership; convening and coordination; accountability; and community engagement.

2 The Western European and Other states group (WEOG) has its own rotation scheme. Terms in the list reflect the rotation scheme as at July 2025. Germany relinquished its seat effective 31 December 2023 and France was elected to complete its term (ending 31 December 2025). Australia relinquished its seat effective 31 December 2024 and Canada was elected to complete its term (ending 31 December 2026).

UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

UNOPS Headquarters
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Telephone: +45 4533 7500
Email: info@unops.org
Social media: www.unops.org/about/social-media-accounts

Website: www.unops.org
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director: Jorge Moreira da Silva, Portugal (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in March 2023)

Purpose

UNOPS helps the UN and its partners provide peace and security, humanitarian and development solutions. The organization is focused on implementation, and committed to UN values and private sector efficiency. Partners call on UNOPS to supplement their own capacities, improve speed, reduce risks, boost cost-effectiveness and increase quality. In 2024, UNOPS delivered $2.7 billion worth of support to partners.

The UNOPS Strategic Plan 2022–25 is focused on implementation for impact. It provides direction to support Member States and the Secretary-General in realizing sustainable development and more peaceful, just and equitable societies. The strategic plan is structured around three contribution goals: to enable partners through efficient management support services; to help people through effective specialized technical expertise; and to support countries in expanding the pool and effect of resources.

Structure

Established as part of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1974, UNOPS became an independent self-financing organization in 1995. An updated governance structure was endorsed by GA res. 65/176 of December 2010, confirming a series of decisions and policies developed by the Executive Board during the previous four years to make UNOPS more accountable and transparent.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided to rename the Executive Board to include UNOPS in its title, making it the Executive Board of the UNDP, UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNOPS. It endorsed an earlier decision whereby the Executive Director reports directly to the UN Secretary-General and the Executive Board, and has the authority to sign host country agreements and appoint UNOPS representatives in the field. For more information about the Executive Board, see the website under ‘About Us’, ‘Governance’ and ‘Executive Board’.

Other key decisions by the Executive Board that have helped transform the organization include the Financial Regulations and Rules, which govern the financial management of UNOPS, and the 2014–17 Strategic Plan, which defined UNOPS’ position in the UN and its goals. The full text of the legislative documents can be found in GA res. 65/176 (2010), ECOSOC res. 2010/23 and Executive Board decisions 2008/35, 2009/25, 2010/7 and 2010/21.

UNOPS operates on a full cost-recovery basis from fees earned for services rendered, with no assessed or voluntary budget funding. The management fees are determined on a case-by-case basis and take into account the level of effort, complexity and risk of the services delivered.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES

UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 1141
Email: unidir@un.org

Website: www.unidir.org
Director: Robin Geiss, Germany (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in consultation with the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, effective April 2021)

Purpose

UNIDIR is an autonomous body of the UN established by the General Assembly to carry out independent research on disarmament and related international security issues. It was established in 1980 and its Statute approved by the General Assembly in res. 39/148H (1984). Member States have mandated the Institute to provide analysis on international security and disarmament; build the capacity of all states to participate in disarmament efforts; assist negotiations and efforts towards greater security at lower levels of armaments; and conduct forward-looking research on longer-term issues. UNIDIR's programme of work covers weapons of mass destruction; conventional weapons and ammunition; security and technology (including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity); space security; gender and disarmament; exits from armed conflict; and regional security in the Middle East. UNIDIR offers research and analysis, expertise and advisory services on the full range of security issues of interest to Member States.

UNIDIR also supports UN agencies and multilateral processes through research, recommendations and the development of digital tools designed to foster mutual trust and improve programming and implementation (such as the Cyber Policy Portal, the AI Policy Portal, the Space Security Portal, the Space Security Lexicon and the BWC National Implementation Measures Database). It organizes four flagship annual conferences on the key issues of AI in the military domain, cyber stability, security-related tech innovations and security in outer space.

The Institute is primarily funded by voluntary contributions from UN Member States and foundations and receives a small contribution from the UN budget.

Structure

The UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters functions as UNIDIR's Board of Trustees. Members are listed on the website. The UNIDIR Director reports annually to the General Assembly on the Institute's activities.

United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC)

Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10
I–10127 Turin
Italy

Email: info@unssc.org

Website: www.unssc.org
Acting Director: Miguel Panadero, Spain (since February 2025)

Purpose

UNSSC is the inter-agency learning institution for the UN. It offers face-to-face courses; e-learning opportunities; knowledge-sharing activities; knowledge-management products; advisory services; tailor-made learning programmes; and academic partnerships. UNSSC's common online learning platform serves over 60 percent of UN personnel, enhancing coherence, reducing duplication, and contributing to cost savings across the system. Learning

areas include: leadership and management development; sustainable development; change management and innovation; sustaining peace; safety and security; and core professional skills such as writing skills, communications and project management.

The Staff College was established by the UN General Assembly in 2001 (GA res. 55/278) and began to operate as a distinct UN learning and training institution in January 2002.

Structure

The Staff College is headquartered in Turin, Italy, with an office in Bonn, Germany. It is headed by a Director and governed by a Board of Governors, chaired by the UN Secretary-General's Chef de Cabinet. The Board is composed of nine UN representatives at the director level or above. Members are appointed by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), for a two-year period with the possibility of a one-year extension. Members are listed on the UNSSC website.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

7 bis, Avenue de la Paix
1202 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 8400
Fax: +41 22 917 8047
Email: info@unitar.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNITARHQ
X: @UNITAR

Website: https://unitar.org
Executive Director: Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Jamaica (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in December 2024; assumed position in February 2025)

Purpose

UNITAR is a dedicated training arm of the UN, established in 1963 by General Assembly res. 1934 (XVIII) (1963) for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the UN in achieving the major objectives of the Organization through training and research. The Institute's mission is to develop the individual, institutional and organizational capacities of countries and other UN stakeholders through high-quality learning solutions and related knowledge products and services to enhance decision-making and to support country-level action for overcoming global challenges.

UNITAR delivers close to 1500 training and capacity development programmes annually, benefiting over half a million learners, on the topics related to the four pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity). The Institute also supports countries in strengthening national institutions for building capacity at all levels and fostering the participation of Member States in global governance, and optimizes the use of technology and support coherence for the 2030 Agenda. Beneficiaries of UNITAR training programmes are mainly government officials from UN Member States, representatives from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, private sector, and other UN agencies. The Institute is committed to ensuring that its activities reach the furthest first, and leave no one behind, with special attention to least developed countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and other groups and communities that are most vulnerable, including those in conflict situations.

Parallel to its learning-specific services, the Institute also engages in training-related and advisory services to support governments and other actors in the achievement of broader social and economic outcomes, such as strengthened multi-stakeholder participation in environmental decision-making and the early ratification and implementation of environmental agreements.

The Institute also delivers research-related results and knowledge products. Through its UN Satellite Centre (UNOSAT), UNITAR provides geospatial information to support the international humanitarian community in decision-making and operational coordination in the field. Its Sustainable Cycles (SCYCLE) programme focuses on the development of sustainable production, consumption and disposal patterns for electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), as well as other ubiquitous goods.

Structure

UNITAR's headquarters are in Geneva, with out-posted offices in New York, Hiroshima and Bonn. It also has UNITAR-UNOSAT offices in Bangkok and Nairobi, and a network of affiliated local authority training centres around the world.

The Board of Trustees is the Institute's governing body and meets at least once a year. It approves the work programme and budget, and formulates principles and policies that govern the Institute's activities and operations. Board members are appointed by the UN Secretary-General in consultation with the General Assembly Presidents and ECOSOC. Members are listed on the UNITAR website.

UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Viale Maestri del Lavoro 10
10127 Turin
Italy
Telephone: +39 011 653 7111
Email: unicri.publicinfo@un.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unicri.it/
X: @UNICRI
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/unicri/
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/UNICRIHQ
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/unicri

Website: www.unicri.org and www.onuitalia.it
Acting Director: Leif Villadsen, Denmark (since February 2024)

Purpose

UNICRI is an autonomous research and training institute within the UN system, dedicated to advancing knowledge and capacity in both established and emerging areas of justice, crime prevention, security, and the rule of law, in support of peace, stability, and the protection of human rights. The Institute was established in 1968 pursuant to ECOSOC res. 1086 B (XXXIX) (1965), which urged an expansion of UN activities in crime prevention and criminal justice. UNICRI works in specialized niches and selected fields of crime prevention, justice, security governance, counter-terrorism, the risks and opportunities of technological advances, chemical, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation, environmental crime, prison reform, women's empowerment and social cohesion. It serves as a platform for consultation and cooperation, bringing together partners such as Member States, local governments, academic and research institutions, regional and international organizations, private entities and civil society at large, in forging a common approach to addressing common challenges.

The Institute supports the design and implementation of holistic and innovative processes to confront traditional and emerging threats, at both national and cross-border levels through specialized, action-oriented research and capacity-building. Its work includes assessing countries' threats and needs, generating and disseminating knowledge, delivering tailored training programmes and fostering international cooperation. UNICRI also provides expert advisory services, facilitates platforms for dialogue and coordination, and serves as a global hub for testing and promoting effective strategies and practical models.

The Institute's current priority areas, as outlined in its Strategic Programme Framework 2023–2026, are: preventing and countering transnational security threats, terrorism and points of nexus; countering criminal enterprises, illicit financial flows and corrupt practices; promoting the rule of law and safeguarding access to justice; and promoting responsible use of new and emerging technologies to address crime and exploitation. UNICRI's priorities are particularly aligned with the Pact for the Future and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)16, which entails the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and building effective and accountable institutions, as well as with SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14 and 15. Research and technical tools produced by the Institute are available on the website under 'Publications'.

Structure

UNICRI is governed by a Board of Trustees composed of eminent experts. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) selects seven members, on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, for five-year rotating terms. They are nominated by the UN Secretary-General and endorsed by ECOSOC, and serve in their personal capacity. The four ex officio members are: a representative of the UN Secretary-General; a representative of the UN Development Programme Administrator; a representative of the host country (Italy); and the Director of UNICRI. The elected members are listed on the website. The Board of Trustees reports annually on UNICRI's work to ECOSOC.

Headquartered in Turin, Italy, UNICRI works with an extended network of offices, including liaison offices in Rome, Brussels and New York; project offices in Geneva and The Hague; and the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Secretariats in Abu Dhabi, UAE; Algiers, Algeria; Amman, Jordan; Manila, Philippines; Nairobi, Kenya; Rabat, Morocco; Tashkent, Uzbekistan; and Tbilisi, Georgia.

UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 917 3060
Email: info.unrisd@un.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/unrisd
X: @UNRISD
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/unrisd
YouTube: www.youtube.com/unrisd
Instagram: @UNRISD
Bluesky: @unrisd.org

Website: www.unrisd.org
Director: Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Chile (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in November 2024)

Purpose

UNRISD is an autonomous research institute within the UN system that undertakes cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and policy analysis on the social dimensions of contemporary development issues (ST/SGB/126). Since 1963, UNRISD has addressed challenging questions on power, politics and distribution to inform UN agencies, Member States and development actors.

The Institute works with a global network of academic, policy, practitioner and activist communities in developed and developing countries, with the aim of positioning social equity, inclusion and justice at the forefront of development thinking, policy and practice.

A hallmark of UNRISD's work is the understanding of social development as a process of transformative change – in social and power relations, policies, systems, structures and institutions, and in individuals themselves – that leads to the realization of economic and social well-being within the boundaries of planetary resources.

UNRISD makes evidence-based contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on inclusion, institutions, intersections and innovations for transformative change. Under the 2021–25 institutional strategy, Overcoming Inequalities: Towards a New Eco-Social Contract, the Institute operates in five areas: transformative social policy; gender justice and development; alternative economies for transformation; environmental and climate justice; and translating research into policy and practice (Bonn Programme).

UNRISD flagship reports are recognized for catalysing development debates and shaping policies. The most recent edition, Crises of Inequality: Shifting Power for a New Eco-Social Contract, was published in October 2022.

Structure

UNRISD is funded entirely through voluntary contributions and is guided by a Board of independent academic advisors. The Board is composed of a chair appointed by the Secretary-General; up to 10 members nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by ECOSOC, who serve in their personal capacities for four-year terms with the possibility of extension for two years; and the Director of the Institute (ex officio). The appointed members are listed on the website.

UNRISD reports biennially to ECOSOC via the Commission for Social Development (its 2023–24 report is E/CN.5/2025/9).

United Nations University (UNU)

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Email: mbox@unu.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UnitedNationsUniversity
X: @UNUniversity
Instagram: @un_university
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-university

Website: http://unu.edu

Rector: Tshilidzi Marwala, South Africa (since March 2023; appointed by the UN Secretary-General, with the concurrence of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General, in July 2022)

Purpose

UNU was established by GA res. 2951 (XXVII) (1972) as an autonomous organ of the UN General Assembly. UNU functions as a think tank for the UN system. It is a platform for new and creative ideas, as well as academic and policy dialogue, and informs UN policy processes through evidence-based research. The University acts as a bridge between the UN and the global academic community, translating science-based research findings into accessible, policy-relevant analyses and recommendations. Through its training and capacity development activities, UNU seeks to enhance the capacity for self-sustained learning by individuals, particularly in developing and transitional countries, and to strengthen global academic and scientific communities.

Structure

UNU operates as a system of academic institutions rather than as an intergovernmental organization. It comprises a central programming and coordinating body, UNU Centre, headquartered in Tokyo, along with a decentralized network of 13 research and training institutes and programmes located in 12 UN Member States.

The governing Council is composed of appointed members serving in their individual capacities, the UNU Rector and three ex officio members (the UN Secretary-General; UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General; and UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Executive Director). The Council reports regularly, through the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC, and through the UNESCO Director-General to the UNESCO Executive Board.

UNU is financed by investment income derived from its endowment fund and by voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, foundations, universities and other sources.

Meetings

The Council meets in a regular session twice a year.

Appointed Council members (12)

2022–28
Yamini Aiyar, India
Hilary Beckles, Barbados (Chair 2025–28)
Catherine Kyobutungi, Uganda
Kuni Sato, Japan
Vanessa Scherrer, France
Mónica Serrano, Mexico[1]

2025–31
Louise Fawcett, UK/Ireland
Francisco H G Ferreira, Brazil
Hauke Reiner Heekeren, Germany
Mu Rongping, China
Jane Catherine Ngila, Kenya
Shuvai Busuman Nyoni, Zimbabwe

Note
1 Appointed on 16 April 2024, to complete the term of Enrique Forero, Colombia, who passed away on 5 September 2023.

TREATY AND RELATED BODIES

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

Further information on scope and process is available at www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies and www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/treaty-body-strengthening.

Committee against Torture (CAT)

Office of the UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9220
Email: ohchr-cat@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cat
Chair: Claude Heller Rouassant, Mexico (since 19 April 2022)

Purpose

CAT is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation by States Parties to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Convention was adopted by GA res. 39/46 (1984) and entered into force on 26 June 1987. As at 1 July 2025, there were 175 parties to the Convention.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Convention. States Parties are obliged to submit a report within one year, then every four years (Article 19), and as requested by the Committee. In certain circumstances, the Committee may conduct a confidential inquiry if it receives reliable evidence of grave and systematic violations of the Convention being carried out by a State Party to the Convention (Article 20). A State Party may declare that it recognizes the Committee's competence to receive and consider communications from a State Party claiming that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention (Article 21); and that it recognizes the Committee's competence to receive and consider communications from, or on behalf of, individuals subject to its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation of the provisions of the Convention by a State Party (Article 22).

The Optional Protocol to the Convention, which entered into force in June 2006, created the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT – see next entry).

Meetings

The Committee meets three times a year in Geneva: in April/May (four weeks), July (three weeks) and October/November (four weeks).

Membership

CAT consists of 10 independent experts in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacities (Article 17). Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution and the legal experience of candidates. Members are elected by States Parties, generally for staggered four-year terms, and may be re-elected.

Members (10)

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Todd Buchwald, USA
Liu Huawen, China
Naoko Maeda, Japan (Vice-Chair)
Abderrazak Rouwane, Morocco (Vice-Chair)
Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov, Russian Federation

Term ends 31 Dec 2027

Jorge Contesse, Chile
Claude Heller Rouassant, Mexico (Chair)
Erdoğan İşcan, Türkiye (Vice-Chair)
Peter Vedel Kessing, Denmark (Rapporteur)
Ana Racu, Republic of Moldova

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)

Office of the UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9000/9744
Email: ohchr-opcat@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/spt
Chair: María Luisa Romero, Panama (since 2025)

Purpose

The SPT was created under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Its mandate is to visit places where people are or may be deprived of their liberty, and make recommendations to States Parties concerning the protection of persons deprived of their liberty against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including on the establishment of national preventive mechanisms.

The Optional Protocol requires each State Party to set up, designate or maintain at the domestic level one or several visiting bodies for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In addition to providing advice and assistance to States Parties in the establishment of these national preventive mechanisms, the SPT assists and advises the national preventive mechanisms in order to strengthen safeguards against ill-treatment of persons deprived of liberty. The SPT undertakes between 8 and 10 visits to States Parties each year.

The Optional Protocol was adopted by GA res. 57/199 (2002) and entered into force on 22 June 2006. As at 1 July 2025, there were 94 parties to the Optional Protocol.

Meetings

The SPT usually convenes three times a year in Geneva, for a total of four weeks.

Membership

The SPT originally had 10 members, increasing to 25 in 2011 following the 50th ratification of, or accession to, the Optional Protocol. Members are experts in the field and serve in their personal capacities. Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of different social and legal systems, and gender balance. Members are elected by States Parties, generally serve for staggered four-year terms and can be re-elected once.

Members (25)

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Uju Agomoh, Nigeria
Vasiliki Artinopoulou, Greece
Carmen Comas-Mata Mira, Spain
Hameth Saloum Diakhate, Senegal (Vice-Chair)
Suzanne Jabbour, Lebanon
Julia Kozma, Austria
Nika Kvaratskhelia, Georgia
Andrew Christoffel Nissen, South Africa
María Luisa Romero, Panama (Chair)
Elīna Šteinerte, Latvia (Vice-Chair)
Anica Tomsic, Croatia
Juan Pablo Vegas, Peru
Victor Zaharia, Republic of Moldova

Term ends 31 Dec 2028

Djordje Alempijevic, Serbia
Massimiliano Bagaglini, Italy
Omar Battas, Morocco
Barbara Bernath, Switzerland
Marie Brasholt, Denmark (Vice-Chair)
Jakub Julian Czepek, Poland
Marco Feoli Villalobos, Costa Rica
Kalliopi Kambanella, Cyprus
Paul Lam Shang Leen, Mauritius
Luciano Mariz Maia, Brazil
Aisha Shujune Muhammad, Maldives (Vice-Chair–Rapporteur)
Martin Zinkler, Germany

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9000
Fax: +41 22 917 9008
Email: cedaw-ohchr@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw
Chair: Nahla Haidar, Lebanon

Purpose

CEDAW is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation by States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Convention is often described as the international bill of rights for women. It defines discrimination against women and outlines a comprehensive range of measures to end it. The Convention was adopted by GA res. 34/180 (1979) and entered into force on 3 September 1981.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in implementing the Convention. States Parties are obliged to submit a report within one year of the Convention's entry into force for the state concerned, then at least every four years (Article 18).

An Optional Protocol to the Convention was adopted by GA res. 54/4 (1999) and entered into force on 22 December 2000. The Protocol contains two procedures:

- A communications procedure allows individuals or groups of individuals to submit claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention to CEDAW
- A confidential inquiry procedure enables CEDAW to initiate inquiries into alleged grave or systematic violations of the rights enshrined in the Convention.

As at 1 July 2025, there were 189 parties to the Convention and 115 parties to the Optional Protocol.

Meetings

CEDAW usually meets three times a year in Geneva.

Membership

CEDAW consists of 23 experts in the fields covered by the Convention serving in their personal capacities (Article 17). Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution and representation of different cultures, as well as the principal legal systems. Experts are elected by States Parties. Members usually serve staggered and renewable four-year terms.

Members (23)

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Brenda Akia, Uganda (Rapporteur)
Hiroko Akizuki, Japan
Rangita De Silva De Alwis, Sri Lanka
Nada Moustafa Fathi Draz[1]
Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia, Nigeria
Yamila González Ferrer, Cuba
Daphna Hacker, Israel
Marianne Mikko, Estonia (Vice-Chair)
Ana Peláez Narváez, Spain
Rhoda Reddock, Trinidad and Tobago (Vice-Chair)
Elgun Safarov, Azerbaijan
Genoveva Tisheva, Bulgaria (Vice-Chair)

Term ends 31 Dec 2028

Hamida Al-Shukairi, Oman
Violet Eudine Barriteau, Barbados
Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Netherlands (Vice-Chair)
Nahla Haidar, Lebanon (Chair)
Madina Jarbussynova, Kazakhstan
Mu Hong, China
Jelena Pia-Comella, Andorra
Bandana Rana, Nepal
Erika Schläppi, Switzerland
Natasha Stott Despoja, Australia
Patsili Toledo Vasquez, Chile

Note

1 Designated in October 2024 to complete the term of Maya Morsy, Egypt, who had resigned in September 2024.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Email: ohchr-cescr@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cescr
Chair: Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu, Romania

Purpose

CESCR is the body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its States Parties. The Covenant was adopted by GA res. 2200 A (XXI) (1966) and entered into force on 3 January 1976. As at 1 July 2025, there were 173 parties to the Covenant.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports, submitted pursuant to Article 16, on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Covenant. The initial report is due two years after acceding to the Covenant, with subsequent reports due, in principle, every five years. The Committee envisages the introduction of an eight-year predictable reporting cycle in the future, should resources be available.

While other core international human rights instruments designate treaty bodies to examine States Parties' reports, the Covenant provides for States Parties to report to ECOSOC. The monitoring function was delegated to a subsidiary body – now CESCR – by ECOSOC decision 1978/10 (see 'Evolution'). The Committee, as a subsidiary body, reports annually to ECOSOC

about its work, with a view to helping it fulfil its responsibilities under Articles 21 and 22 of the Covenant.

In addition to the reporting procedure, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which entered into force on 5 May 2013, provides the Committee with the competence to receive and consider communications from individuals claiming that their rights under the Covenant have been violated. The Committee may also, under certain circumstances, undertake inquiries on grave or systematic violations of any of the economic, social and cultural rights in the Covenant, and consider inter-state complaints with respect to states that have accepted those procedures. As at 1 July 2025, there were 31 parties to the Optional Protocol.

Evolution

The Committee was originally named the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC decision 1978/10). ECOSOC res. 1985/17 changed administrative arrangements and renamed it CESCR, with the Committee to be made up of independent experts.

Meetings

CESCR usually meets twice a year in Geneva.

Membership

CESCR comprises 18 experts of recognized competence in human rights serving in their personal capacities. Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution and representation of different social and legal systems. Committee members are elected by ECOSOC secret ballot from a list of people nominated by States Parties to the Covenant. Members generally serve staggered four-year terms and may be re-elected.

Members (18)

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Aslan Khuseinovich Abashidze, Russian Federation

Asraf Ally Caunhye, Mauritius

Peters Sunday Omologbe Emuze, Nigeria (Vice-Chair–Rapporteur)

Santiago Manuel Fiorio Vaesken, Paraguay

Ludovic Hennebel, Belgium (Vice-Chair)

Joo-Young Lee, ROK

Karla Vanessa Lemus de Vásquez, El Salvador (Vice-Chair)

Julieta Rossi, Argentina

Preeti Saran, India (Vice-Chair)

Term ends 31 Dec 2028

Nadir Adilov, Azerbaijan

Lazhari Bouzid, Algeria

Chen Peijie, China

Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu, Romania (Chair)

Charafat El Yedri Afailal, Morocco

Seree Nonthasoot, Thailand

Giuseppe Palmisano, Italy

Laura Elisa Pérez, Mexico

Michael Windfuhr, Germany

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 917 9008
Email: ohchr-cerd@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cerd
Chair: Michal Balcerzak, Poland

continued next page

Purpose

CERD is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by its States Parties. The Convention entered into force on 4 January 1969 (GA res. 2106A (1965)). As at 1 July 2025, there were 182 parties to the Convention.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Convention. States Parties are obliged to submit a report within one year of acceding to the Convention, then every two years.

Under Article 14, a State Party may declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by that State Party of any of the rights set forth in the Convention. As at 1 July 2025, 59 States Parties had made a declaration under Article 14.

The Committee reports annually to the General Assembly and may make suggestions and recommendations based on its examination of the reports and information provided by States Parties.

GA res. 47/111 (1992) made an amendment to the Convention's fund provisions that will enter into force when it is accepted by two-thirds of States Parties to the Convention. As at 1 July 2025, 54 States Parties had accepted the amendment.

Meetings

CERD has usually convened three times a year in Geneva: in April/May (three weeks), July/August (four weeks) and November/December (three weeks).

Membership

CERD consists of 18 experts, elected by States Parties, who serve in their personal capacities (Article 8). Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution and the representation of different cultures, as well as to the principal legal systems. Members generally serve staggered four-year terms and may be re-elected.

Members (18)*

Term ends 19 Jan 2026

Noureddine Amir, Algeria
Michal Balcerzak, Poland (Chair)
Chinsung Chung, ROK (Rapporteur)
Bakari Sidiki Diaby, Côte d'Ivoire
Régine Esseneme, Cameroon (Vice-Chair)
Gün Kut, Türkiye
Gay McDougall, USA (Vice-Chair)
Mazalo Tebie, Togo
Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen, Mauritius

Term ends 19 Jan 2028

Pela Boker-Wilson, Liberia
Guan Jian, China
Ibrahima Guisse, Senegal
Vadili Rayess, Mauritania
Verene Albertha Shepherd, Jamaica (Vice-Chair)
Chrispine Gwalawala Sibande, Malawi
Stamatia Stavrinaki, Greece
Faith Dikeledi Pansy Tlakula, South Africa
Abderrahman Tlemçani, Morocco

Note

* On 2 June 2025, the 31st meeting of States Parties elected nine members for a four-year term beginning 20 January 2026: Bakari Sidiki Diaby, Cote d'Ivoire (re-elected), Régine Esseneme, Cameroon (re-elected), and Mazalo Tebie, Togo (re-elected) (African states); Shaikha Abdulla Ali Al-Misnad, Qatar, and Chinsung Chung, ROK (re-elected) (Asia–Pacific states); Michal Balcerzak, Poland (re-elected) (Eastern European states); Carla Ivette Pousa Caride, Panama, and Saúl Vicente Vázquez, Mexico (Latin American and Caribbean states); and Gün Kut, Türkiye (re-elected) (Western European and Other states).

Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Office of the UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9220
Fax: +41 22 917 9008
Email: ohchr-cmw@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cmw
Chair: Fatimata Diallo, Senegal

Purpose

CMW is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Convention gives specific form to general international human rights standards so that they are meaningful in the particular context of migration. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly (GA res. 45/158) on 18 December 1990 and entered into force on 1 July 2003. As at 1 July 2025, there were 60 parties to the Convention.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Convention. States Parties accept the obligation to submit a report within one year of ratification of, or acceding to, the Convention, then every five years (Article 73).

A State Party may delare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications to the effect that a State Party claims that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention (Article 76) and/or to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals subject to that State's jurisdiction who claim that their rights under the Convention have been violated by that State Party (Article 77). Each mechanism will come into force when 10 States Parties make the said declaration.

Meetings

The Committee has usually met in Geneva twice a year.

Membership

The CMW originally consisted of 10 experts, increasing to 14 on 1 January 2010, once the number of parties to the Convention had reached 40 (Article 72). Members are experts in the field and serve in their personal capacities. Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution as well as representation of the principal legal systems. Members are usually elected for staggered four-year terms and may be re-elected.

Members (14)*

Term ends 31 Dec 2025

Pablo Ceriani Cernadas, Argentina (Vice-Chair)

Fatimata Diallo, Senegal (Chair)

Jasminka Dzumhur, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Vice-Chair)

Ermal Frasheri, Albania

Mamane Oumaria, Niger

Azad Taghi-Zada, Azerbaijan (Vice-Chair)

Raymond G Zounmatoun, Benin

Term ends 31 Dec 2027

Khaled Cheikhna Babacar, Mauritania (Rapporteur)

Mohammed Charef, Morocco

Edgar Corzo Sosa, Mexico

Sabrina Gahar, Algeria

Prasad Kariyawasam, Sri Lanka

Myriam Poussi, Burkina Faso

Can Ünver, Türkiye

continued next page

Note

* On 24 June 2025, the 12th meeting of States Parties elected seven members for a four-year term beginning 1 January 2026: Mireille Constance Legba Adankon, Benin, Mamane Oumaria, Niger (re-elected) and Fabien Tombohavana, Madagascar (African states); Jasminka Dzumhur, Bosnia and Herzegovina (re-elected), Azad Taghi Zada, Azerbaijan (re-elected), and Ermal Frasheri, Albania (re-elected) (Eastern European states); and Francisco Carrión Mena, Ecuador (Latin American and Caribbean states).

Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Office of the UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9141
Fax: +41 22 917 9008
Email: ohchr-crc@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crc
Chair: Sopio Kiladze, Georgia

Purpose

The CRC is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also monitors implementation of three optional protocols to the Convention.

The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly (GA res. 44/25) on 20 November 1989 and entered into force on 2 September 1990. As at 1 July 2025, there were 196 parties to the Convention.

The CRC considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Convention. States Parties are obliged to submit a report within two years of acceding to the Convention, then every five years (Article 44).

Evolution

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) were adopted by GA res. 54/263 (2000) and opened for signature and ratification or accession in New York on 5 June 2000. They entered into force on 12 February and 18 January 2002 respectively. As at 1 July 2025, there were 178 parties to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children and 173 parties to the Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure (OPIC) was adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2011 (res. 66/138) and opened for signature on 28 February 2012. It entered into force on 14 April 2014, having been ratified three months earlier by the required number of 10 countries.

The OPIC establishes a communications procedure that allows individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two optional protocols. It also allows the Committee to carry out inquiries into allegations of grave or systematic violations of rights under the Convention and its first two optional protocols. As at 1 July 2025, there were 53 parties.

Meetings

The CRC has usually convened three times a year for sessions of three weeks' duration, normally in January, May and September in Geneva.

Membership

The CRC originally had 10 experts, increasing to 18 in 2002 (Article 43 and GA res. 50/155 (1995)). Members are experts in the field and serve in their personal capacities. Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution as well as representation of the principal legal systems. Members generally serve staggered four-year terms and may be re-elected.

Members (18)

Term ends Feb 2027

Suzanne Aho Assouma, Togo

Thuwayba Ahmed Al Barwani, Oman (Vice-Chair)

Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi, Morocco

Mary Beloff, Argentina (Vice-Chair)

Rosaria Correa, Panama

Bragi Gudbrandsson, Iceland

Philip D Jaffe, Switzerland (Vice-Chair)

Faith Marshall-Harris, Barbados

Aïssatou Alassane Moulaye Sidikou, Niger

Term ends Feb 2029

Rinchen Chophel, Bhutan

Timothy PT Ekesa, Kenya

Mariana Ianachevici, Republic of Moldova

Sopio Kiladze, Georgia (Chair)

Cephas Lumina, Zambia (Vice-Chair–Rapporteur)

Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Ethiopia

Zeinebou Taleb Moussa, Mauritania

Juliana Scerri Ferrante, Malta

Benoit Van Keirsbilck, Belgium

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9000
Fax: +41 22 917 9022
Email: ohchr-crpd@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crpd
Chair: Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Ghana

Purpose

The CRPD is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention was adopted on 13 December 2006 (GA res. 61/106) and received its 20th ratification on 3 April 2008, triggering its entry into force on 3 May 2008. Its Optional Protocol entered into force on the same day, having received the necessary 10 ratifications.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Convention. States Parties are obliged to submit a report within two years of accepting the Convention, then every four years (Article 35).

The Committee is also mandated to receive and examine individual communications alleging violations of the Convention by States Parties that have become party to the Optional Protocol. In certain circumstances, the Committee may conduct an inquiry if it receives reliable evidence of grave or systematic violations of the Convention being carried out by a State Party to the Optional Protocol.

As at 1 July 2025, there were 193 parties to the Convention and 108 parties to the Optional Protocol.

Meetings

The Committee has usually convened for ordinary sessions twice a year in Geneva.

Membership

The CRPD originally had 12 members, increasing to 18 in 2010 following an additional 60 ratifications or accessions to the Convention (Article 34). Members are experts in the field and serve in their personal capacities. Consideration is given to equitable geographic distribution, representation of different social and legal systems, gender balance and participation of experts with disabilities. Members generally serve staggered four-year terms and can be re-elected once.

Members (18)

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Muhannad Salah Al-Azzeh, Jordan
Rehab Mohammed Boresli, Kuwait
Amalia Eva Gamio Ríos, Mexico (Vice-Chair)
Laverne Jacobs, Canada
Rosemary Kayess, Australia (Vice-Chair)
Miyeon Kim, ROK
Alfred Kouadio Kouassi, Côte d'Ivoire
Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Ghana (Chair)
Markus Schefer, Switzerland

Term ends 31 Dec 2028

Magino Corporán Lorenzo, Dominican Republic
Gerel Dondovdorj, Mongolia
Mara Cristina Gabrilli, Brazil
Natalia Guala Beathyate, Uruguay
Abdelmajid Makni, Morocco
Floyd Morris, Jamaica
Christopher Nwanoro, Nigeria
Inmaculada Placencia Porrero, European Union
Hiroshi Tamon, Japan

Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Secretariat for the Convention on the
Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
S–2906, New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 917 367 5169
Fax: +1 917 367 5102
Email: enable@un.org

Website: https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/cosp

Purpose

Under Article 40 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the States Parties to the Convention meet regularly in a conference to consider any matter with regard to implementation of the Convention, including the election of members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The first session of the Conference was held in 2008, when the Convention entered into force.

Meetings

The Conference has met annually since 2008. Meetings can be convened by the Secretary-General biennially or by a decision of the Conference. Non-States Parties may participate as observers, in addition to accredited non-governmental and national human rights institutions. The Bureau consists of one president and four vice-presidents, elected for two years on a geographical and rotational basis.

Human Rights Committee

Office of the UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Email: ohchr-ccpr@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ccpr
Chair: Changrok Soh, ROK

Purpose

The Committee is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation by its States Parties of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Covenant came into force on 23 March 1976 (GA res. 2200 (XXI) A (1966)). As at 1 July 2025, there were 174 parties to the Covenant.

The Committee considers States Parties' reports on the measures adopted and progress made in observance of the Covenant. States Parties should submit a report within one year of acceding to the Covenant, then when the Committee requests in accordance with the simplified reporting procedure.

The (First) Optional Protocol of the Covenant, which also came into effect on 23 March 1976, established the competence of the Committee to consider communications from individuals regarding alleged violations of their rights under the Covenant. As at 1 July 2025, there were 116 parties to the First Optional Protocol. The Second Optional Protocol, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, entered into force on 11 July 1991 and, as at 1 July 2025, had 92 parties.

Meetings

The Committee holds three sessions a year in Geneva.

Membership

The Committee has 18 members who have recognized competence in human rights and serve in their personal capacities (Article 28). Given the legal nature of the Committee's work, many of its members are lawyers, judges or professors of law. Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution and representation of different social and legal systems. Members are elected by States Parties, generally serve staggered four-year terms and may be re-elected.

Members (18)

Term ends 31 Dec 2026

Rodrigo A Carazo, Costa Rica
Yvonne Donders, Netherlands
Laurence R Helfer, USA
Dalia Leinartė, Lithuania[1]
Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Senegal
Hernán Quezada Cabrera, Chile (Vice-Chair)
Tijana Šurlan, Serbia
Koji Teraya, Japan
Hélène Tigroudja, France (Vice-Chair)

Term ends 31 Dec 2028

Tania María Abdo Rocholl, Paraguay
Wafaa Ashraf Moharram Bassim, Egypt
(Vice-Chair)
Mahjoub El Haiba, Morocco
Carlos Ramón Fernández Liesa, Spain
Konstantin Korkelia, Georgia
Akmal Kholmatovich Saidov, Uzbekistan
Ivan Šimonović, Croatia (Rapporteur)
Changrok Soh, ROK (Chair)
Imeru Tamerat Yigezu, Ethiopia

Note

1 Elected by the 41st meeting of States Parties on 21 January 2025 to complete the term of Farid Ahmadov, Azerbaijan, who resigned on 4 March 2024.

Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

Palais Wilson 52
Rue des Pâquis
1201 Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 917 9490
Email: ohchr-ced@un.org

Website: www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced
Chair: Olivier de Frouville, France

Purpose

CED is the body of independent experts that monitors the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. All States Parties must submit a report to the Committee within two years of becoming parties to the Convention. Upon review of this report, the Committee adopts concluding observations, in which it may request the State Party to submit a report with additional information on the implementation of the adopted recommendations and of the Convention, and on the evolution of the situation of enforced disappearances in the country.

Under the Urgent Action procedure (Article 30 of the Convention), the Committee can request that a State Party take immediate measures to search for a disappeared person and investigate his or her alleged enforced disappearance. When the Committee receives reliable information indicating that a State Party is seriously violating the Convention, it can request to visit that State Party (Article 33). If the Committee receives well-founded information that enforced disappearance is practised on a widespread or systematic basis in a State Party, it may urgently bring the matter to the attention of the General Assembly (Article 34).

A State Party may declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual complaints (or communications) from or on behalf of individuals subject to its jurisdiction claiming to be victims of a violation of the Convention (Article 31). A State Party may also declare that it recognizes the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications in which a State Party claims that another State Party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention (Article 32).

The Convention was adopted on 20 December 2006 (GA res. 61/177) and entered into force on 23 December 2010, 30 days after 20 states had ratified or acceded to it (Article 39(1)). As at 1 July 2025, there were 98 signatories and 77 parties.

Meetings

The Committee usually holds two sessions a year in Geneva.

Membership

CED consists of 10 experts of recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacities (Article 26). Consideration is given to equitable geographical distribution, relevant legal experience and gender balance. Members are elected for four-year terms, and are eligible for re-election once.

Members (10)

Term ends 30 June 2027

Matar Diop, Senegal (Vice-Chair)
Olivier de Frouville, France (Chair)
Fidelis Edge Kanyongolo, Malawi
Barbara Lochbihler, Germany
Carmen Rosa Villa Quintana, Peru

Term ends 30 June 2029

Juan Pablo Alban Alencastro, Ecuador (Rapporteur)
Yakouma Jean de Dieu Bambara, Burkina Faso
Marija Definis, Croatia
Elías Ricardo Solís González, Panama
Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi, Brazil

LAW OF THE SEA TREATY BODIES

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

Division for Ocean Affairs and the
Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
2 United Nations Plaza, Room DC2–0450
New York, NY 10017
United States of America

Telephone: +1 212 963 3962
Email: doalos@un.org

Website: www.un.org/depts/los/clcs_new/clcs_home.htm
Chair: Aldino Manuel dos Santos de Campos, Portugal (since 5 July 2023)

Purpose

The Commission's purpose is to facilitate the implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in respect of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. It was established in accordance with UNCLOS Part VI and Annex II.

Pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 1, of Annex II to UNCLOS, the Commission's functions are to:

- Consider data and other material submitted by coastal states concerning the outer limits of the continental shelf in areas where those limits extend beyond 200 nautical miles, and to make recommendations to coastal states on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf in accordance with Article 76 and the Statement of Understanding adopted on 29 August 1980 by the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea
- Provide scientific and technical advice if requested by coastal states during preparation of such data.

The Convention opened for signature in 1982 and entered into force in 1994. A subsequent Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996. As at 1 July 2025, there were 170 parties to the Convention and 153 parties to the Agreement.

Meetings

Under the current working arrangements, until the end of 2024, the Commission met for three sessions of seven weeks every year. From 2025 until the end of the current term of office in June 2028, the Commission will meet for three sessions of five weeks each year, with increased intersessional work.

Membership

The Commission consists of 21 members who are experts in the fields of geology, geophysics or hydrography. They are elected by States Parties to the Convention from among their nationals and serve in their personal capacities. No fewer than three members are elected from each geographical region. Members are elected for five-year terms and may be re-elected.

The election for the current term was held during the 32nd Meeting of States Parties in June 2022, for which the allocation of seats was: five members from African states; five from Asia–Pacific states; three from Eastern European states; four from Latin American and Caribbean states; three from Western European and Other states; and one member from among African, Asia–Pacific or Western European and Other states (who, for the 2023–28 term, was elected from those nominated by African states). Those arrangements do not prejudice or affect future election arrangements.

Members (21) – June 2023 to June 2028

Adnan Rashid Nasser Al-Azri, Oman
Lawrence Asangongo Apaalse, Ghana
Efren Perez Carandang, Philippines
Aldino Manuel dos Santos de Campos, Portugal (Chair)
Ahmed Er Raji, Morocco[1]
Antonio Fernando Garcez Faria, Brazil (Vice-Chair)
Helena Inniss, Trinidad and Tobago
Artem Kireev, Russian Federation[2]
Stig-Morten Knutsen, Norway[3]
Estevao Stefane Mahanjane, Mozambique
Domingos de Carvalho Viana Moreira, Angola
David Cole Mosher, Canada (Vice-Chair)
Simon Njuguna, Kenya (Vice-Chair)
Tolojanahary Randriamiarantsoa, Madagascar
Rajan Sivaramakrishnan, India
Tang Yong, China (Vice-Chair)
Michal Tomczak, Poland (Vice-Chair)[4]
Ariel Hernán Troisi, Argentina
Toshitsugu Yamazaki, Japan
Gonzalo Alejandro Yáñez Carrizo, Chile
Vacant, Eastern European states

Notes

1 Elected on 27 November 2024, to complete the term of Miloud Loukili, Morocco, who resigned on 28 June 2024.

2 Elected on 12 June 2024, to complete the term of Ivan F Glumov, Russian Federation, who passed away on 20 December 2023.

3 Elected on 26 June 2025, to complete the term of Harald Brekke, Norway, who resigned on 24 January 2025.

4 Elected on 28 November 2023, to complete the term of Mateusz Damrat, Poland, who resigned on 2 June 2023.

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

14–20 Port Royal Street
Kingston
Jamaica

Telephone: +18 76 922 9105
Email: postmaster@isa.org.jm

Website: www.isa.org.jm
Secretary-General: Leticia Carvalho, Brazil (elected by the Assembly of the ISA in August 2024 for a four-year term 2025–28)

Purpose

ISA is the organization through which States Parties to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) organize and control activities in 'the Area' – the seabed, ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. ISA was established under Part XI of UNCLOS and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI, which was adopted by GA res. 48/263 (1994).

Structure

The principal organs of the Authority are the Assembly, Council and Secretariat. The Enterprise is the organ of the Authority that carries out activities in the Area directly.

The Assembly, as the sole organ consisting of all the members of the Authority, is considered the supreme organ to which other principal organs are accountable as specifically provided for in UNCLOS. As at 1 July 2025, the Authority had 170 members (169 states and the European Union), all parties to the Convention.

The Council, the executive organ of the Authority, comprises 36 Member States, elected by the Assembly in the following order: countries with the greatest global consumption (Group A); those that have made significant investment in seabed activities (Group B); those that produce and export minerals sourced from the seabed (Group C); those with special interests (Group D); and others, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution (Group E). Members serve four-year terms, ending 31 December, with election of half of them taking place every two years.

The agreed geographical allocation of seats is 10 to the African group, nine to Asia–Pacific, eight to Western European and Other states, seven to Latin American and Caribbean states, and three to Eastern European states. Since the total number of seats allocated according to that formula is 37, it was understood that each regional group other than Eastern Europe would relinquish in rotation one seat for one year in order to conform to the requirement under the Convention of 36 Council members. The Council member whose seat is relinquished by its regional group will participate in Council meetings but will not be entitled to vote on any matters.

Organs of the Council include the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) and the Economic Planning Commission (whose functions are performed by the LTC; its operationalization is currently being discussed by the Council). The LTC consists of 41 members elected by the Council. The Finance Committee was established by the 1994 Part XI Agreement to oversee the financing and financial management of the Authority. The Committee consists of 15 members elected by the Assembly for a term of five years.

Meetings

Annual sessions are held in Kingston, Jamaica, the seat of the Authority.

Membership

The list of Council members shows current terms. For more detail about shared terms, see the website.

Council members 2025 (36)*

Group A (4)

China	2025–28	Japan	2025–28
Italy[1]	2023–26	Russian Federation	2023–26

Group B (4)

France[2]	2024–26	Netherlands[2]	2023–26
India	2025–28	ROK	2023–26

Group C (4)

Australia	2023–26	Chile	2023–26
Canada	2025–28	South Africa	2025–28

Group D (6)

Bangladesh[3]	2025–28	Jamaica	2023–26
Brazil	2025–28	Lesotho	2023–26
Nauru[4]	2023–26	Uganda	2025–28

Group E (18)

Argentina	2025–28	Morocco	2025–28
Belgium[5]	2025–28	Nigeria	2023–26
Cameroon	2023–26	Poland	2025–28
Costa Rica	2025–28	Portugal[7]	2025–28
Ghana	2023–26	Sierra Leone	2023–26
Indonesia[4]	2024–26	Singapore	2023–26
Ireland[6]	2025–28	Tonga	2023–26
Mauritius	2025–28	Trinidad and Tobago	2025–28
Mexico	2023–26	UR of Tanzania	2025–28

Finance Committee members 2023–27 (15)

Elected by the Assembly in 2022[8]

Medard Ainomuhisha, Uganda
Anastasia Francilia Akubor, Nauru
Khurshed Alam, Bangladesh
Jens Benninghofen, Germany
Kajal Bhat, India
Shoko Fujimoto, Japan
Pavel Kavina, Czechia
Solomon Korbieh, Ghana
Sergey Litvinov, Russian Federation
Didier Ortolland, France
Thiago Poggio Padua, Brazil
Viola Walton, Jamaica
Kenneth Wong, Canada
Xing Chaohong, China[8]
Lee-Anne Yarr, UK[8]

Legal and Technical Commission members 2023–27 (41)

Elected by the Council in 2022[9]

Mark B Alcock, Australia
Noorah Algethami, Saudi Arabia
Niki Aloupi, France
Mario Juan A Aurelio, Philippines
María Gómez Ballesteros, Spain[9]
Adoté Blim Blivi, Togo
Moreno Andrés Camaño, Chile
Georgy A Cherkashov, Russian Federation
Malcolm Clark, New Zealand
Richard Addo Darko, Ghana
Edwin Egede, Nigeria
Sissel Eriksen, Norway
Malakai Finau, Fiji
Tomohiko Fukushima, Japan
Marzone Affonso Rêgo Gavino, Brazil
Michael Gikuhi, Kenya
Juan Luis Minaya González, Dominican Republic
Dao Viet Ha, Viet Nam
Kahlil Hassanali, Trinidad and Tobago
Becky Hitchin, UK[9]
Se-Jong Ju, ROK
Paulus Kainge, Namibia
Michael Imran Kanu, Sierra Leone
Erasmo Alonso Lara Cabrera, Mexico
Théophile Ndougsa Mbarga, Cameroon
Gamal Abdelrehim Mohamed Metwally, Egypt
Vicent Bartholomew Mtavangu, UR of Tanzania
Piotr Nowak, Poland
Haryo Nugroho, Indonesia
Roman Opimakh, Ukraine
Juan Pablo Paniego, Argentina[9]
Ellen Pape, Belgium
Luísa Ribeiro, Portugal
Mariamalia Chaves Rodríguez, Costa Rica
Carsten Michael Ruhlemann, Germany
Ramesh Sethuraman, India
Joshua Tiwangye Tuhumwire, Uganda
Siosiua Utoikamanu, Tonga
Nguyen Hong Vu, Czechia
Michelle Walker, Jamaica
Yang Shengxiong, China

Observers

The UN, its specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and other international organizations invited by the ISA Assembly as well as non-governmental organizations that have been granted the observer status are observers, in addition to the following states:

Afghanistan
Andorra
Bhutan
Burundi
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Colombia
DPRK
El Salvador
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Holy See
Iran
Israel
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Libya
Liechtenstein

Peru	Türkiye	Uzbekistan
South Sudan	Turkmenistan	Venezuela
Syrian AR	UAE	
Tajikistan	USA	

Notes

* For 2025, a member of the Asia–Pacific states group will relinquish its seat on the ISA Council, reducing the 37 members listed here to the required total of 36.

1 Italy would relinquish its seat in Group A in favour of the USA, if the USA were to become a member of the Authority; this does not prejudice the position of any country with respect to the intervening election to the Council.

2 France, Germany and the Netherlands are sharing two seats in Group B over the 2023–26 term. France relinquished its seat to the Netherlands for 2023, and Germany has relinquished its seat to the Netherlands for 2025.

3 Bangladesh and the Philippines are sharing one seat in Group D over the 2025–28 term. Bangladesh will relinquish its seat to the Philippines for the year 2027.

4 Fiji, Indonesia, Nauru and Tonga are sharing one seat in Group D and two in Group E over the 2023–26 term. Indonesia relinquished its seat in Group E to Nauru for the year 2023, Tonga relinquished its seat in Group E to Nauru for the year 2024, and Fiji has relinquished its seat in Group D to Nauru for 2025 and 2026.

5 Belgium, the Netherlands and Norway are sharing one seat in Group E over the 2025–28 term. The Netherlands has relinquished its seat to Belgium for 2025 and will relinquish its seat to Norway for 2026 and 2028.

6 Ireland and the UK are sharing one seat in Group E over the 2025–28 term. The UK has relinquished its seat to Ireland for 2025.

7 Portugal and Spain are sharing one seat in Group E over the 2025–28 term. Spain has relinquished its seat to Portugal for 2025.

8 Xing Chaohong, China, was elected on 24 July 2023 to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Fan Kejun, China. Lee-Anne Yarr, UK, was elected on 21 July 2025 to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Christopher Hilton, UK.

9 María Gómez Ballesteros, Spain, was elected on 18 March 2024 to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Adolfo Maestro González, Spain; Becky Hitchin, UK, was elected on 10 July 2023 to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Jon Copley, UK; Juan Pablo Paniego, Argentina, was elected on 30 October 2023 to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Federico Gabriel Hirsch, Argentina.

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)

Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1
22609 Hamburg
Germany

Telephone: +49 40 35 607 0
Fax: +49 40 35 607 275
Email: itlos@itlos.org
X: @ITLOS_TIDM

Website: www.itlos.org

Registrar: Ximena Hinrichs Oyarce, Chile (since September 2019; re-elected by the Tribunal in September 2024 for a second five-year term)

Purpose

The Tribunal is an independent judicial body established by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention. It was constituted in 1996 and functions in accordance with the relevant provisions of UNCLOS, including its Part XV and its Statute, contained in Annex VI to the Convention.

The Convention opened for signature in 1982 and entered into force in 1994. Three subsequent agreements were concluded: one relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention, which was adopted in 1994 and entered into force in 1996; one relating to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, which was adopted in 1995 and entered into force in 2001; and one relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), which was adopted in 2023. As at 1 July 2025, there were 170 parties to the Convention, 153 parties to the Part XI Agreement and 94 parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

The jurisdiction of the Tribunal comprises all disputes and all applications submitted to it in accordance with the Convention and all matters specifically provided for in any other international agreement that confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal. The Tribunal has jurisdiction to deal with disputes (contentious jurisdiction) and legal questions (advisory jurisdiction) submitted to it.

The Tribunal also has compulsory jurisdiction to deal with requests for the prompt release of vessels and crews upon the posting of a reasonable bond or other financial security. It can also prescribe provisional measures (interim injunctions) to preserve the respective rights of the parties to a dispute or to prevent serious harm to the marine environment.

The Seabed Disputes Chamber, composed of 11 elected members of the Tribunal, has certain compulsory jurisdiction with respect to disputes arising out of the exploitation and exploration of 'the Area' (the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction). The Chamber can also give advisory opinions on legal questions arising within the scope of its activities, at the request of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Assembly or Council.

The Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention decides the Tribunal's budget, as well as contributions by States Parties and the ISA (see Statute, Article 19, para. 1).

Membership

The Tribunal comprises 21 independent members (judges), elected from among persons of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea. The Statute of the Tribunal requires equitable geographical distribution and representation of the world's principal legal systems. There must be no fewer than three members from each UN regional group and no two judges may be of the same nationality. Members are elected for nine years and may be re-elected. The terms of one-third of the 21 members expire every three years.

Tribunal members (21)

Tomas Heidar, Iceland
(term ends 30 Sept 2032) (President)

Neeru Chadha, India
(term ends 30 Sept 2026) (Vice-President)

José Luis Jesus, Cabo Verde
(term ends 30 Sept 2026)

Boualem Bouguetaia, Algeria
(term ends 30 Sept 2026)

David Joseph Attard, Malta
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Markiyan Z Kulyk, Ukraine
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Óscar Cabello Sarubbi, Paraguay
(term ends 30 Sept 2026)

Kriangsak Kittichaisaree, Thailand
(term ends 30 Sept 2026)

Roman Kolodkin, Russian Federation
(term ends 30 Sept 2026)

Liesbeth Lijnzaad, Netherlands
(term ends 30 Sept 2026)

María Teresa Infante Caffi, Chile
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Jielong Duan, China
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Kathy-Ann Brown, Jamaica
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Ida Caracciolo, Italy
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Maurice K Kamga, Cameroon
(term ends 30 Sept 2029)

Frida María Armas Pfirter, Argentina
(term ends 30 Sept 2032)

Hidehisa Horinouchi, Japan
(term ends 30 Sept 2032)

Thembile Elphus Joyini, South Africa
(term ends 30 Sept 2032)

Zha Hyoung Rhee, ROK
(term ends 30 Sept 2032)

Osman Keh Kamara, Sierra Leone
(term ends 30 Sept 2032)

Konrad Jan Marciniak, Poland
(term ends 30 Sept 2032)

ENVIRONMENTAL BODIES

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

C/O World Meteorological Organization
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Email: ipcc-sec@wmo.int
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IPCC
X: @IPCC_ch

Website: www.ipcc.ch
Secretary: Abdalah Mokssit, Morocco (appointed by the WMO Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of UNEP, in 2016)

Purpose

The IPCC is a scientific body established in 1988 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Its role is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute voluntarily to the IPCC's work. The IPCC does not conduct research, nor does it monitor climate-related data or parameters. Its work is policy relevant but policy neutral.

Since its inception, the IPCC has produced six multi-volume Assessment Reports. The First Assessment Report, in 1990, confirmed the scientific basis for concern about climate change and played a decisive role in the creation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Second, in 1995, concluded that the balance of evidence suggested a discernible human influence on the global climate and provided information for negotiators to draw on in the run-up to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. The Third, in 2001, concluded that there was new evidence that most of the warming observed over the previous 50 years was attributable to human activities and helped to focus attention on the impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation. The Fourth, in 2007, led to the IPCC, jointly with former USA Vice-President Al Gore, being awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. The Fifth, in 2014, puts greater emphasis on assessing the socio-economic aspects of climate change and its implications for sustainable development and formed the scientific basis of the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC. The Sixth was finalized in March 2023, in time to inform the 2023 Global Stocktake by the UNFCCC, as mandated by Decision 1/CP.21. The IPCC's Seventh Assessment Cycle began in July 2023.

The IPCC also publishes Special Reports in response to requests from governments, the UNFCCC or other international organizations and conventions; and Methodology Reports in response to requests from the UNFCCC. At the request of the UNFCCC, IPCC produced a *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* in October 2018 and a *Special Report on Climate Change and Land* in August 2019. The most recent Special Report, on *The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*, was finalized in September 2019. Information about IPCC reports is available on the website.

Structure

The IPCC Secretariat coordinates work and liaises with governments. It is supported by the WMO and UNEP, and hosted at WMO headquarters in Geneva.

The Panel has three working groups:

- Working Group I (WG I) assesses the physical scientific aspects of the climate system and climate change

- Working Group II (WG II) assesses the vulnerability of natural and socio-economic systems to climate change and its observed and projected effects on them, along with adaptation options
- Working Group III (WG III) assesses options for mitigating climate change through limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing activities that remove them from the atmosphere.

The Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) develops methodology and software for the calculation and reporting of national greenhouse gas emissions and removals through sinks. The Panel, comprising 195 member governments, makes decisions at its plenary sessions and is assisted by a 34-member bureau. The Bureau members are elected for the duration of the preparation of an IPCC assessment report (five to six years). They are chosen on the basis of their scientific qualifications, while reflecting balanced geographical representation.

Membership

The IPCC has 195 member countries, including all UN and WMO Member States. The IPCC Bureau comprises the IPCC Chair and Vice-Chairs; the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three Working Groups; and the TFI Co-Chairs. The Bureau is chaired by the IPCC Chair. Members are elected by the Panel for the duration of an assessment cycle, and reflect balanced geographical representation with due consideration for scientific and technical requirements. The current Bureau was elected at the Panel's 59th session in July 2023. The TFI has its own bureau composed of 12 members and two co-chairs. Members are normally elected at the same session as the IPCC Bureau and the term is the same.

IPCC Bureau (Seventh Assessment Cycle)

Chair

Jim Skea, UK

Vice-Chairs

Ladislaus Chang'a, UR of Tanzania

Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Hungary

Ramón Pichs-Madruga, Cuba

Working Group I Co-Chairs

Robert Vautard, France

Zhang Xiaoye, China

Working Group II Co-Chairs

Winston Chow, Singapore

Bart van den Hurk, Netherlands

Working Group III Co-Chairs

Katherine Calvin, USA

Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Malaysia

TFI Co-Chairs

Takeshi Enoki, Japan

Mazhar Hayat, Pakistan

Working Group I Vice-Chairs

Edvin Aldrian, Indonesia

Sherilee Harper, Canada

Nana Ama Browne Klutse, Ghana

Maheshwar Rupakheti, Nepal

Inés Camilloni, Argentina

Sonia Seneviratne, Switzerland

Aida Diongue, Senegal

Working Group II Vice-Chairs

Fatima Denton, Gambia

Carlos Méndez, Venezuela

Laura Gallardo, Chile

Raman Sukumar, India

Mark Howden, Australia

Adelle Thomas, Bahamas

Cromwel Lukorito, Kenya

Zinta Zommers, Latvia

Working Group III Vice-Chairs

Malak Al Nory, Saudi Arabia
Eduardo Calvo Buendía, Peru
Jan Sigurd Fuglestvedt, Norway
Oliver Geden, Germany
Gervais Itsoua Madzous, Congo
Siir Kilkis, Türkiye
Noureddine Yassaa, Algeria

TFI Bureau (Sixth Assessment Cycle)

Co-Chairs

Takeshi Enoki, Japan
Mazhar Hayat, Pakistan

Members

Amjad Abdulla, Maldives
Laura Elena Dawidowski, Argentina
Giacomo Grassi, Italy
Joni Jupesta, Indonesia
Mohd Talib Latif, Malaysia
Mohammad Rahimi, Iran
Irma Fabiola Ramirez Hernandez, Mexico
Yasna Rojas, Chile
Maria Jose Sanz Sanchez, Spain
Hamid Abakar Souleymane, Chad
Samir Tantawi, Egypt
Melissa Weitz, USA

Secretariat for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Ozone Secretariat)

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNEPOzone
X: @UNEPOzone
Instagram: @UNEPOzone

Website: http://ozone.unep.org
Executive Secretary: Megumi Seki Nakamura, Japan (appointed by the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with the UNEP Executive Director, in May 2021)

Purpose

The Ozone Secretariat services the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol, and their governing and subsidiary bodies. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was designated as the Secretariat of the two treaties in 1989. Its duties are defined under Article 7 of the Vienna Convention and Article 12 of the Montreal Protocol.

The objectives of the Convention and Protocol include safeguarding human health and the environment from the harmful effects of ozone depletion and the elimination of substances that deplete the ozone layer, as listed under the Protocol, on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge, taking into account technical and economic considerations and bearing in mind the developmental needs of developing countries.

Over the past 35 years, implementation of the Convention and Protocol has led to the phasing out of the production and consumption of 99 percent of historic levels of ozone-depleting substances (ODSs). The remaining 1 percent is scheduled to be phased out by 2030. Because most ODSs are potent global warming gasses, the Montreal Protocol has achieved important climate co-benefits. From 1990 to 2010, implementation of the Montreal Protocol avoided greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated carbon dioxide-equivalent of a net 135 gigatons. With the full and sustained implementation of the Montreal Protocol, the ozone layer is projected to recover by the middle of this century, and reduce global warming by about 1°C.

In 2009, the Convention and Protocol became the first environmental protection treaties to achieve universal ratification, currently with 198 parties, including the European Union.

The Montreal Protocol has been amended five times, in London (1990), Copenhagen (1992), Montreal (1997), Beijing (1999) and Kigali (2016), with each amendment requiring separate ratification by parties. As at 1 July 2025, all Montreal Protocol Amendments except the Kigali Amendment had been ratified by 197 parties, while the Kigali Amendment had been ratified by 163 parties.

The Kigali Amendment to the Protocol entered into force on 1 January 2019. Under the Amendment, all parties will gradually phase down production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by more than 80 percent by the mid-2040s and replace them with more planet-friendly alternatives. HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases that do not deplete the ozone layer. Their phase-down following the Kigali Amendment schedule will avoid up to 0.5°C of global temperature rise by the end of the century, in addition to the climate benefits of reducing ODSs. Improving the energy efficiency of cooling technologies can double the benefits of the Amendment.

The implementation of the Montreal Protocol in developing countries is assisted by the Protocol's Multilateral Fund, regularly replenished through contributions from 49 developed countries, including countries with economies in transition. Since 1991, over $4.7 billion in grant funding has been pledged, and over $4.3 billion approved. In addition, the Global Environment Facility (GEF, see page 320) supports implementation of the Montreal Protocol in countries with economies in transition, although it is not linked formally to the Protocol.

Meetings

The Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention (COP) usually meets every three years, and the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP) usually takes place annually. COP13 and MOP36 took place concurrently from 28 October to 1 November 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand, and MOP37 is scheduled to be held from 3 to 7 November 2025 in Nairobi. More information, including Bureau details, is available on the website. The Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund meets twice a year.

Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

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UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
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Email: pic@fao.org

Website: www.brsmeas.org (synergies between Conventions), www.basel.int (Basel Convention), www.pic.int (Rotterdam Convention), www.pops.int (Stockholm Convention)
Executive Secretary: Rolph Payet, Seychelles (since October 2014; appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2014)
Acting Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention (FAO): Christine Fuell, Germany (since 2023)

Purpose

As mandated by the Conventions, the principal functions of the Secretariat are to assist or facilitate assistance to parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to implement their obligations under the Conventions; to receive and circulate information; to prepare for and service meetings of the governing and subsidiary bodies to the Conventions. A joint head of the

UNEP-administered part of the three Convention Secretariats has been in place since 2011, with the aim of increasing cooperation, coordination and cost-effective services.

Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted at Basel, Switzerland, in March 1989 and entered into force in May 1992. As at 1 July 2025, there were 191 parties (190 States Parties and the European Union) to the Convention.

The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects that may result from the generation and management of hazardous and other wastes. To achieve this, the Convention centres around three principal aims:

- Reducing transboundary movements of hazardous wastes to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management
- Regulating the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes by applying the 'Prior Informed Consent' procedure
- Reducing the generation of hazardous wastes to a minimum and promoting the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, wherever the place of disposal.

A decision amending the Basel Convention (Ban Amendment) was adopted during the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) in Geneva in September 1995. The objective of this Amendment is that each party listed in the new Annex VII (Parties and other states that are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Union and Liechtenstein) prohibits all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes within the scope of the Convention to states not included in that Annex. The Amendment entered into force on 5 December 2019. As at 1 July 2025, 104 parties had deposited their instruments of ratification or acceptance of the Ban Amendment.

In 2019, COP14 adopted various amendments related to plastic waste within Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention, which became effective on 1 January 2021. In 2022, COP15 adopted amendments for the control of transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste, which entered into force on 1 January 2025.

The Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Protocol) was adopted at COP5 in Basel in December 1999. The Protocol is to provide for a comprehensive liability and compensation regime for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including incidents occurring because of illegal traffic in those wastes. As at 1 July 2025, 13 parties had signed and 12 had ratified the Protocol. It will enter into force on the 90th day after the deposit of instruments of consent to be bound by 20 parties.

Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted in order to protect human health or the environment.

The Convention was adopted on 10 September 1998 and entered into force on 24 February 2004. As at 1 July 2025, there were 167 parties to the Convention.

The Convention's objectives are to:

- Promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm
- Contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export, and by disseminating these decisions to parties.

Chemicals that parties agree to list in Annex III to the Convention become subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure, which was originally a voluntary process initiated by UNEP and the FAO in 1989. The PIC procedure empowers parties to take informed decisions on the import and export of hazardous chemicals.

As at 1 July 2025, there are 55 chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention and subject to the PIC procedure, of which 36 are pesticides (including three severely hazardous pesticide formulations), 18 industrial chemicals and one chemical in both the pesticide and industrial chemical categories. The latest amendments, adopted in May 2025 to list an additional two chemicals, carbosulfan and fenthion (ultra-low formulations at or above 640g active ingredient/L), will enter into force in October 2025.

The Convention was also amended in 2019 at COP9, to add a new Annex VII on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention. This Annex entered into force on 6 November 2020 for all parties, except those that had submitted notifications of non-acceptance within one year from the date of communication by the depositary of adoption of the Annex. Further information is available on the website under 'Countries', then 'Status of ratification' and 'Annex VII'.

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) – chemicals that are highly toxic, remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed throughout the environment, accumulate in the fatty tissue of living organisms including humans and are found at higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain.

The Convention was adopted on 22 May 2001 and entered into force on 17 May 2004. It requires parties to take measures to prohibit, eliminate or restrict the production and use of specific POPs listed in Annexes A, B and C to the Convention. As at 1 July 2025, there were 186 parties to the Convention.

The Convention was amended at the first COP meeting to add a new Annex G on arbitration and conciliation procedures. The Annexes to the Convention have also been regularly amended as new POPs are identified and added to Annexes A, B and C to the Convention in addition to the original 12. Full information on the POPs listed in Annexes A, B and C is available on the website. The latest amendments, to list chlorpyrifos, medium-chain chlorinated paraffins and long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds in Annex A to the Convention, will enter into force one year from when they are communicated by the depositary, except for parties that notified they are unable to accept them (opt-out parties) or that made a declaration that any such amendments only enter into force for them on deposit of instruments consenting to be bound (opt-in parties).

In May 2023, parties also adopted a decision on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Stockholm Convention, establishing a Compliance Committee.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF, see page 320) serves as the principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism of the Convention.

Meetings

COP meetings for each of the Conventions take place at regular intervals, as decided by the COP to each respective Convention. Meetings are usually held every two years, in a coordinated manner, most recently from 28 April to 9 May 2025 in Geneva. Details about meetings are on the synergies website under 'Decision-making', as well as under 'The Convention' on each Convention-specific website.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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Instagram: @unbiodiversity
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Website: www.cbd.int
Executive Secretary: Astrid Schomaker, Germany (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in April 2024)

Purpose

The Secretariat services the Convention, which provides a global legal framework for action on biodiversity. The Convention opened for signature at the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993. As at 1 July 2025, there were 196 parties to the Convention.

The Convention has three objectives:

- Conserving biological diversity
- Ensuring the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
- Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

On 29 January 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The objective of the Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, is to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. As at 1 July 2025, there were 173 parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

On 29 October 2010, the COP adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014. As at 1 July 2025, there were 142 parties to the Protocol.

On 15 October 2010, the COP serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, at its fifth meeting (COP–MOP 5), adopted the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Supplementary Protocol entered into force on 5 March 2018. It aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity by providing international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress relating to living modified organisms, and entered into force on 5 March 2018. As at 1 July 2025, there were 55 parties to the Supplementary Protocol.

Structure

The Secretariat was established under Article 24 of the Convention and is administered by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). It also serves as the Secretariat of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols and the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol.

The Convention's governing body is the COP. The COP also serves as the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, respectively (COP-MOPs). The COP-MOPs are the governing bodies to the two Protocols.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) provide recommendations, within their respective mandates, to the COP and COP-MOPs. They are made up of government representatives with

expertise in relevant fields as well as observers from non-party governments, the scientific community and relevant organizations. In October 2024, at COP 16, Parties adopted a decision establishing a new subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the CBD related to Indigenous peoples and local communities (SB 8j).

The Bureau of the COP serves as the Bureau of the COP-MOPs and SBI. SBSTTA has its own Bureau. The modalities for the Bureau of SB 8j will be considered at its first meeting, scheduled for October 2025 in Panama.

Ad hoc open-ended working groups, which are open to all parties and observers, have been established to make recommendations to the COP on specific issues. The COP and the subsidiary bodies may also establish expert groups or direct the Secretariat to convene meetings of liaison or other groups and workshops. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF, known as the Global Biodiversity Framework), to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, was adopted at COP15/CP-MOP10/NP-MOP4 in December 2022.

COP and COP-MOP decisions are available on the website. More information on governance, including on the COP Bureau, is also available on the website under 'Biodiversity Convention', then 'Convention Bodies'.

A clearing-house mechanism was established pursuant to Article 18 para. 3 of the Convention to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, and a mechanism for providing financial resources to developing countries for the purposes of the Convention was established pursuant to Article 21. The Global Environment Facility (GEF, see page 320) acts as that financial mechanism.

Meetings

Both the COP and the MOPs usually meet every two years at the UN Biodiversity Conference. COP16/CP-MOP11/NP-MOP5 commenced in Cali, Colombia, on 21 October 2024 before being suspended on 2 November 2024. A first resumed session was held online from 3 to 6 December 2024, and a second resumed session was held in Rome from 25 to 27 February 2025.

Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD)

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNCCD
X: @UNCCD
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-convention-to-combat-desertification-unccd-/
YouTube: www.youtube.com/THEUNCCD

Website: www.unccd.int
Executive Secretary: Yasmine Fouad, Egypt (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in May 2025 for a three-year term beginning in August 2025)

Purpose

The Secretariat services the Convention, which is an international agreement linking the environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention was established by GA res. 47/188 (1992), adopted on 17 June 1994 and entered into force in December 1996. In recognition of this, 17 June is observed as Desertification and Drought Day (formerly World Day to Combat Desertification). As at 1 July 2025, there were 197 parties

to the Convention (196 countries and the European Union). The Convention is implemented on the basis of five regional implementation annexes for Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Northern Mediterranean.

The Convention plays a key role in efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly with regard to Target 15.3. The UNCCD Permanent Secretariat was established in Article 23 of the Convention.

The UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework was adopted in 2017 (see ICCP/COP(13)3). In 2024, Parties established an Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on the Future Strategic Framework (FSF) to identify key elements for a post-2030 strategic framework of the Convention.

Structure

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme governing body. Information about its Bureau is on the website under 'The Convention', then 'Governance' and 'Process Management Bodies'. The following bodies are accountable to the COP:

- Permanent Secretariat – established in 1999 and in conformity with decision five of the first COP. Its headquarters are in Bonn, Germany. The Secretariat services the COP and subsidiary bodies, and facilitates implementation of national, regional and sub-regional programmes.
- Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) – established in 2001, the CRIC reviews and analyses national reports submitted to the COP that describe the status of the Convention's implementation by parties.
- Committee on Science and Technology (CST) – provides the COP with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
- Global Mechanism (GM) – established under Article 21 of the Convention. The GM assists countries in the mobilization of financial resources to implement the Convention by providing advisory services to developing countries, the private sector and donors.

Since 2003, the Global Environment Facility (GEF, see page 320) has served as a financial mechanism to the Convention.

Meetings

Since 2001, the COP has usually met every two years. The 16th session was held in December 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the 17th is scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17 to 28 August 2026.

Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

International Environment House
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Instagram: @cites
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/cites-org/

Website: www.cites.org
Secretary-General: Ivonne Higuero, Panama (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in October 2018)

Purpose

The Secretariat services the Convention, which is an international agreement between governments that seeks to ensure international trade in specimens of wild animals and

plants is legal, sustainable and traceable, and does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild.

CITES provides a three-tier licensing framework to control the trade in specimens of selected species covered by the Convention and to which signatory Parties to the Convention voluntarily adhere. CITES Parties must adopt their own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

More than 40,900 animal and plant species are covered by CITES, listed in the three CITES Appendices according to the degree or type of protection from over-exploitation. Appendix I includes species most threatened with extinction. International trade in these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances. Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the survival of the species in the wild. Appendix III contains species included at the request of a CITES Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation.

The Convention was adopted in March 1973 and entered into force in July 1975. As at 1 July 2025, there were 185 parties to the Convention (184 countries and the European Union).

Structure

The Convention is governed by the Conference of the Parties (CoP) and serviced by the Secretariat. The Standing Committee makes recommendations on policy-related matters. Two scientific committees, the Animals and Plants committees, comprise scientists and provide technical support to decision-making about species that are, or might become, subject to CITES trade controls. More governance information is available on the website under 'About CITES'.

Meetings

Known as the World Wildlife Conference, the CoP usually meets every three years. CoP20 is scheduled to be held from 24 November to 5 December 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The Standing Committee, Animals Committee and Plants Committee meet annually, usually in Geneva. In 2013, GA res. 68/205 designated the CITES Secretariat as the official facilitator of UN World Wildlife Day, which is celebrated annually on 3 March.

Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/unfccc/
YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/climateconference

Website: www.unfccc.int
Executive Secretary: Simon Stiell, Grenada (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in August 2022)

Purpose

The Secretariat supports all institutions involved in international climate change negotiations under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. The ultimate objectives of the Convention and related legal instruments are to:

- Stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system and within a timeframe sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change

- Ensure that food production is not threatened
- Enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

The Convention opened for signature at the Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and entered into force in March 1994. As at 1 July 2025, there were 198 parties to the Convention.

Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

The first Conference of the Parties (COP1) agreed that the Convention commitments were inadequate and launched the Berlin Mandate talks on additional commitments. The result of these negotiations, the Kyoto Protocol, was adopted by consensus at COP 3 in Kyoto in December 1997. As at 1 July 2025, there were 192 parties to the Kyoto Protocol.[1]

The Protocol includes legally binding emission targets for developed country (Annex I) parties for the six major greenhouse gases. It entered into force on 16 February 2005, 90 days after Annex I parties, accounting for at least 55 percent of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990, had deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Its first commitment period ended on 31 December 2012.

At COP 13, held in conjunction with the third Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 3) in Bali in December 2007, parties agreed to launch negotiations towards an agreed outcome that would strengthen the international climate change regime.

The Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP 18/CMP 8, held in November–December 2012 in Doha, Qatar, and is subject to acceptance by parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The amendment entered into force on 31 December 2020, 90 days after three-quarters of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol had deposited their instruments of acceptance. As at 1 July 2025, there were 148 parties to the Doha Amendment. Ratification of the Doha Amendment relates to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020.

At COP 21/CMP 11, held in Paris, France, in December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached an agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low-carbon future. The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through 'nationally determined contributions' (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead.

On 5 October 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved. The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016. The first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1) took place in Marrakech, Morocco from 15–18 November 2016. As at 1 July 2025, there were 195 signatories and 195 parties to the Paris Agreement.

More detailed information is available on the website.

Structure

The UNFCCC COP is the supreme body of the Convention and the CMP is the supreme body of the Kyoto Protocol. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) oversees the implementation of the Paris Agreement and takes decisions to promote its effective implementation. The Secretariat supports the COP, CMP and CMA; their subsidiary bodies – the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); and the Bureau of the COP, CMP and CMA. The Bureau provides advice and guidance for ongoing work under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, the organization of their sessions and the operation of the Secretariat.

At the COP 1 session, held in Berlin in April 1995, it was decided that the Secretariat would service all bodies established by the COP, and be based in Bonn. The Secretariat is institutionally linked to the UN but not fully integrated in any department or programme. More governance information, including Bureau members, is available on the website.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF, see page 320) is one of the entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism to the Convention.

Meetings

The UNFCCC, COP, CMP and CMA meet annually. COP 29/CMP 18/CMA 6 took place in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, and COP 30/CMP 19/CMA 7 are scheduled to be held from 10 to 21 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil.

Note

1 In accordance with Article 27 (1) of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Government of Canada notified the Secretary-General of the UN that it had decided to withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol. The action became effective for Canada on 15 December 2012, in accordance with Article 27 (2).

Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS or Bonn Convention)

CMS Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn
Germany
Telephone: +49 228 815 2401
Fax: +49 228 815 2449
Email: cms-secretariat@un.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bonnconvention
X: @BonnConvention

Website: www.cms.int
Executive Secretary: Amy Fraenkel, USA (appointed in February 2020)

Purpose

The Secretariat provides administrative support to the Convention, which is an intergovernmental treaty concerned with the conservation of migratory species and their habitats globally (see https://elearning.informea.org/course/view.php?id=86). The Convention originated in Recommendation 32 of the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, was concluded in 1979 and entered into force on 1 November 1983. As at 1 July 2025, there were 133 parties to the Convention.

The objective of the Convention is to conserve migratory species and their habitats by:

- Providing strict protection measures for migratory species listed as endangered in Appendix I
- Concluding multilateral agreements for the conservation and management of migratory species listed in Appendix II (such as water birds, terrestrial and marine mammals, reptiles and bats) that have an unfavourable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international cooperation
- Undertaking research and monitoring activities.

Structure

The Convention is governed by the Conference of the Parties (COP). A Standing Committee provides policy and administrative guidance between regular meetings of the COP, and a Scientific Council gives advice on technical matters. More governance information is available on the website under ‘About’, then ‘Organizational Structure’.

Meetings

The COP usually meets every three years. COP14 took place from 12 to 17 February 2024 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and COP15 is scheduled to be held from 23 to 29 March 2026 in Campo Grande, Brazil. The Standing Committee meets at least annually, and the Sessional Committee of the Scientific Council usually meets twice every three years.

Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

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1196 Gland
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170

Email: ramsar@ramsar.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConventionOnWetlands
X: @RamsarConv

Website: www.ramsar.org
Secretary General: Musonda Mumba, Zambia (appointed by the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee in August 2022)

Purpose

The Secretariat services the Convention on Wetlands (also known as the Ramsar Convention), which is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources. It was adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in February 1971, and entered into force on 21 December 1975.

To accede to the Convention, Contracting Parties (Member States) must have designated at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the 'Ramsar List'). Contracting Parties are also expected to manage all wetlands within their territories in accordance with the principles of wise use and to engage in international cooperation to further the Convention's objectives.

As at 1 July 2025, the Convention's 172 Contracting Parties had designated over 2500 Ramsar Sites for inclusion in the Ramsar List. These Ramsar Sites cover more than 2.5 million square kilometres.

Structure

The Convention is not part of the UN system of environmental treaties but has established collaborative agreements. It is governed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP). The Standing Committee is the intersessional executive body that supervises implementation of the Convention and the Secretariat's work. The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day coordination of the Convention's activities, including preparing for and servicing meetings of the COP, Standing Committee and subsidiary bodies.

The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) advises the Standing Committee and COP on technical issues. STRP members include a representative of each of Ramsar's six international organization partners: BirdLife International, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and WWF-International (World Wildlife Fund).

Meetings

The COP usually meets every three years. Most recently, COP15 took place from 23 to 31 July 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Standing Committee meets annually.

Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

International Environment House 1
11–13 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtelaine, Geneva
Switzerland

Email: MEA-MinamataSecretariat@un.org
X: @MinamataMEA
LinkedIn: @minamataconvention
Instagram: @minamataconvention

Website: www.minamataconvention.org
Executive Secretary: Monika Stankiewicz, Poland (since January 2020)

Purpose

The Secretariat services the Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic (human-caused) emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. The Convention was adopted and opened for signature on 10 October 2013 at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Kumamoto, Japan. It entered into force on 16 August 2017. As at 1 July 2025, there were 128 signatories and 152 parties to the Convention. Parties report on their implementation of the Convention through the Secretariat.

The Convention follows a life-cycle approach to mercury: from mine, to supply and use, to final disposal. It contains provisions that relate to mercury's different life stages, including its primary extraction; uses in products, processes or activities such as artisanal and small-scale gold mining; emissions and releases through various processes; and treatment as waste. The Convention is named after a city in Japan where serious health and environmental damage occurred as a result of mercury pollution in the mid-20th century.

In 2022, at COP-4, the Convention was amended to ban eight additional mercury-added products, reducing mercury demand, exposure and waste. In 2023, at COP-5, Annexes A and B were amended to phase out mercury-added products, including certain fluorescent lamps, button batteries, switches and relays, as well as mercury-added manufacturing processes. Controls on mercury-added cosmetics were also strengthened with a complete ban as of 2025.

Structure

The Convention, under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), is governed by the Conference of the Parties (COP). The Implementation and Compliance Committee is a subsidiary body to the COP, set up to promote the implementation of, and review compliance with, all provisions of the Convention.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF, see following entry) is one of the entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism to the Convention.

Meetings

The Conference of the Parties has held four meetings in Geneva: COP1 in September 2017, COP2 in November 2018, COP3 in November 2019, and COP5 in November 2023. COP4 was held in two segments: the first online from 1 to 5 November 2021 and the second from 21 to 25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. COP6 is scheduled to take place in November 2025.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

1899 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20006
United States of America
Telephone: +1 202 473 0508

Fax: +1 202 522 3240
Email: gef@thegef.org
X: @theGEF

Website: www.thegef.org
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson: Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Costa Rica (elected by the GEF Council in June 2020)

Purpose

The GEF provides grants and concessional funding to eligible countries for projects and programmes that protect the global environment and promote sustainable development. It is a designated financial mechanism for six conventions, the:

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ) Agreement.

The GEF also supports implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in countries with economies in transition, although it is not linked formally to the Protocol. As well as the GEF trust fund, the GEF administers several dedicated financing entities with specific focuses: two climate adaptation funds, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and trust funds for the Nagoya Protocol and the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). In 2022, the CBD selected the GEF to host a new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, launched in August 2023 to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

The GEF funds the agreed incremental costs of activities that benefit the global environment in a number of focal areas: biodiversity, climate change (mitigation and adaptation), chemicals and waste, international waters and land degradation (primarily desertification and deforestation). The Instrument establishing the GEF (para. 9) states that countries may be eligible for GEF funds if they:

- Have ratified the conventions the GEF serves and conform with the eligibility criteria decided by the Conference of the Parties of each convention
- Are eligible to borrow from the World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and/or International Development Association) or receive technical assistance grants from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) through a country programme.

Originally set up as a pilot programme in 1991, the GEF has since been restructured and undergone several 'replenishment' rounds. Resources for the GEF are replenished every four years by contributing countries. Negotiations for the eighth replenishment period resulted in a record replenishment of $5.3 billion for the four years of GEF-8, running to June 2026, and many additional countries became donors for the first time. Co-financing provides, on average, an additional five or six times the amount of resources to support GEF for particular projects and comes from bilateral agreements, governments hosting projects, implementing partners, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

Structure

- Assembly: comprises representatives of all participating countries and is responsible for reviewing the GEF's general policies, the operation of the GEF and its membership, and considering proposed amendments to the GEF Instrument
- Council: the main governing body, which comprises 32 members (of which 16 represent developing countries, 14 developed countries and two economies in transition) and is primarily responsible for developing, adopting and evaluating GEF programmes
- Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP): provides expert advice to the GEF
- Independent Evaluation Office (IEO): reports to Council, and carries out independent evaluations of the GEF's work consistent with Council decisions.

The GEF has 18 implementing agencies. As well as the three original implementing agencies – UNDP, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank – seven other specialized UN agencies and regional development banks also administer GEF projects: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International

Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Since 2012, eight international non-governmental organizations have been accredited as project agencies: Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), West African Development Bank (BOAD) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US).

The GEF Secretariat is independent of the 18 implementing agencies and reports to and serves the GEF Council and Assembly. Among other duties, the Secretariat coordinates the formulation and oversees implementation of activities under the work programme and implements Assembly and Council decisions. More governance information is on the website under 'Who We Are', then 'Organization'.

Meetings

The Assembly meets every three or four years. Most recently, the Seventh GEF Assembly was held from 22 to 26 August 2023 in Vancouver, Canada. The Council usually meets twice a year for three days.

Membership

As at 1 July 2025, the GEF had 186 participating countries. The full list is available on the website.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER RELATED BODIES

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organization (ILO)

4 Route des Morillons
1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 799 6111
Email: ilo@ilo.org

Website: www.ilo.org
Director-General: Gilbert F Houngbo, Togo (elected by the Governing Body in March 2022 for a five-year term beginning 1 October 2022)

Purpose

The ILO is devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing its founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. The only tripartite UN agency, it brings together government, employer and worker representatives to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

The ILO's Decent Work Agenda is composed of four strategic objectives:

- Set and promote standards and fundamental principles and rights at work
- Create greater opportunities for women and men to decent employment and income
- Enhance the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all
- Strengthen tripartism and social dialogue.

The ILO was founded in 1919, its constitution forming part of the Treaty of Versailles (Part XIII). In 1946, it became the first specialized agency of the UN.

Structure

ILO Member States meet at the annual International Labour Conference in June. Each Member State is represented by a tripartite delegation consisting of two government delegates, an employer delegate, worker delegate and their respective advisers. Employer and worker delegates are nominated by the most representative national organizations of employers and workers. All delegates have the same rights and can express themselves freely and vote as they wish. Many of the government representatives are Cabinet ministers responsible for labour affairs in their own countries. Heads of State and prime ministers also take the floor at the Conference. International organizations, both governmental and others, attend as observers.

The Conference, which is often called an international parliament of labour, has several main tasks:

- Crafting, adopting and supervising the application of international labour standards in the form of conventions and/or recommendations
- Providing a forum where social and labour questions of importance to the world are discussed freely
- Adopting conclusions and resolutions that provide guidelines for the ILO's general policy and future activities
- Adopting the biennial work programme and budget, which is financed by Member States
- Electing the Governing Body members every three years.

The Governing Body is the ILO's executive body. It takes decisions on ILO policy, decides the Conference agenda, adopts the Organization's draft programme and budget for submission to the Conference and elects the Director-General. The Governing Body has 56 titular members (28 governments, 14 employers and 14 workers) and 66 deputy members (28 governments, 19 employers and 19 workers). Its members are elected respectively by the government, employer and workers' groups of the International Labour Conference for periods of office of three years, most recently in June 2024. Ten of the titular government seats are non-elective and are held by states of chief industrial importance, as determined from time to time by the Governing Body. At present, these states are Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, UK and USA. More governance information is available on the website.

Meetings

The International Labour Conference is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland, usually in June. The Governing Body meets three times a year, in March, June and November.

Membership

The ILO has 187 Member States (as at July 2025). The UN Member States that are not members are Andorra, Bhutan, DPRK, Liechtenstein, Micronesia, Monaco and Nauru.

Governing Body members (June 2024 to June 2027)[1]

Government group

Previous terms include both regular and deputy members, with (D) indicating deputy members for the terms indicated. ILO members that have not served on the Governing Body are not listed.

	Previous[1, 2]	Current
Albania	2014–17(D)	
Algeria	1969–72 81–87 1996–2002 11–14(D) 14–17 21–24(D)	
Angola	1978–87 2011–14(D) 14–17	
Antigua and Barbuda	1987–90	
Argentina	1969–99 2002–18[1] 21–24(D)	
Australia	1972–96 2005–14 14–21(D) 21–24	2024–27 (Deputy)

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Austria	1975–78 84–87 96–99 2008–11	2024–27 (Deputy)
Azerbaijan	2017–21	
Bahamas	2002–05	
Bahrain	1981–84 2014–17(D) 17–21	
Bangladesh	1978–84 87–93 1996–2011 14–17(D) 17–21 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Barbados	1981–84 2002–11 17–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Belarus	1987–93 2002–08	
Belgium	1969–72 81–84 90–93 2002–11 14–17(D) 21–24(D)	
Benin	1972–75 84–90 1999–2011	2024–27 (Deputy)
Bolivia	1972–75 84–87 90–93	2024–27 (Deputy)
Botswana	1984–90 2011–17(D)	
Brazil[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Brunei Darussalam	2014–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Bulgaria	1969–75 81–84 90–93 1999–2005 08–11 11–14(D) 14–17 17–21(D)	
Burkina Faso	1969–72 84–87 1999–2002 14–17(D)	
Burundi	1975–78 84–90 2002–11	
Cambodia	2005–11 11–14(D) 14–17	
Cameroon	1975–81 87–93 2002–08 17–21(D) 21–24	
Canada	1969–81 1984–2014 14–17(D) 17–21 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Central African Republic	1969–72 96–99	
Chad	1999–2002 14–17(D) 17–21	
Chile	1969–72 1993–2002 05–08 19–21[1] 21–24	
China[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Colombia	1969–84 87–90 1996–2002 11–14 14–17(D) 21–24	2024–27 (Deputy)
Congo	1969–72 90–99 2008–14	2024–27 (Deputy)
Costa Rica	1990–93 96–99 2011–14(D)	
Côte d'Ivoire	1978–81 96–99 2005–08 17–21	
Croatia	1996–2002 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Cuba	1975–78 81–90 1993–2002 05–11 11–24(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Cyprus	1984–87 1999–2002 11–14(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Czechia	1993–96 2005–11 17–21(D) 21–24	
DR Congo	1975–78	
Denmark	1969–72 82–84 90–93 1999–2002 11–14	2024–27 (Deputy)
Djibouti	1984–87	
Dominican Republic	1999–2002 02–05 14–17(D) 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Ecuador	1969–75 81–84 87–90 2002–05 17–24(D)	
Egypt	1978–84 93–99 2008–14	
El Salvador	1999–14	
Eswatini	1993–99 2017–21(D) 21–24	
Ethiopia	1981–87 1996–2008 14–17(D) 17–21	2024–27 (Deputy)
Finland	1972–75 84–87 96–99 2005–08 17–21(D)	
France[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Gabon	1972–75 78–81 93–96 1999–2005 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Germany[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Ghana	1972–75 81–87 93–96 1999–2005 08–11 11–14(D) 14–17	

Greece	1975–78 87–90 2005–08 17–21(D)	
Guatemala	1999–2002 17–21(D) 21–24	
Guinea	1975–78 87–90 96–99 2008–11	
Guyana	1978–81	
Honduras	1975–81 90–93 2005–08	2024–27 (Deputy)
Hungary	1975–78 81–87 93–99 2005–14	2024–27 (Deputy)
India[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Indonesia	1969–78 81–87 1990–2005 11–21(D) 21–24	
Iran	1969–81 84–90 1993–21 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Iraq	1984–87 2017–24(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Iceland	2021–24(D)	
Ireland	1972–75 90–93 2005–08 17–21	
Italy[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Jamaica	1972–75 84–87	
Japan[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Jordan	1972–75 96–99 2002–11 14–17(D)	
Kazakhstan	2011–14(D)	
Kenya	1969–72 78–84 90–96 2002–11 11–14(D) 14–17	
Kuwait	1975–78 87–90 2005–08	
Lao PDR	2021–24(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Lebanon	1978–81 2008–11 11–14(D)	
Lesotho	1988–93 2014–17(D) 17–21	
Liberia	1975–78	
Libya	1984–90 1999–2005 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Lithuania	1999–2005 08–14 14–17(D) 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Luxembourg	2002–05	
Madagascar	1972–75 81–84 90–93	
Malawi	1990–93 2002–08 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Malaysia	1987–90 1996–2002 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Mali	1981–84 93–96 2002–05 14–17(D)	
Malta	1978–81 90–93 2011–14(D)	
Mauritania	1972–75 2014–17(D) 17–21	
Mauritius	1975–78 93–99	
Mexico	1972–87 1990–2011 11–14(D) 14–17 17–21(D) 21–24	2024–27 (Deputy)
Mongolia	1981–87 96–99	
Morocco	1972–75 87–93 2002–08 17–21(D) 21–24	
Mozambique	1978–84 2005–11	2024–27 (Deputy)
Myanmar	1981–84 2017–21(D)	
Namibia	1996–2002 17–24(D)	
Nepal	2017–21(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Netherlands	1981–84 93–96 1999–2002 05–08 11–17(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
New Zealand	1990–96 1999–2005	
Nicaragua	1978–81 84–90 93–96	
Niger	1978–81 90–96 2002–05 11–14 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Nigeria	1969–72 78–84 90–93 1996–2011 17–21(D) 21–24	
North Macedonia	1975–81 84–90	
Norway	1975–78 84–87 93–96 2002–05 14–17(D)	
Oman	2002–05 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Pakistan	1969–72 75–81 84–87 1990–2011 11–17(D) 21–24	

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Panama	1972–78 81–84 93–99 2008–11 11–14(D) 14–21	
Paraguay	2017–21(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
Peru	1978–81 90–93 1996–2002 05–11 17–21	2024–27 (Regular)
Philippines	1978–84 1990–2008	2024–27 (Deputy)
Poland	1972–78 93–99 2005–11 14–17(D) 17–21	2024–27 (Regular)
Portugal	1981–84 93–96 1999–2002 08–11 21–24(D)	
Qatar	1993–96 2008–14	2024–27 (Deputy)
ROK	1996–2011 11–14(D) 14–21 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Romania	1969–72 75–81 90–96 2002–08 11–14(D) 14–17 17–21(D) 21–24	
Russian Federation[3]	2011–14(D) 14–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Rwanda	1972–75 17–21(D) 21–24	
São Tomé and Príncipe	1984–87	
Saudi Arabia	1996–2008 17–21(D) 21–24	
Senegal	1981–84 96–99 2005–08 17–21 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Sierra Leone	1975–81	
Singapore	2002–11	
Slovakia	1996–2002	
Slovenia	2002–05 21–24(D)	
Somalia	1969–72 75–78 87–90	
South Africa	1996–2011	2024–27 (Deputy)
Spain	1972–75 78–81 84–87 93–99 2008–11 14–17(D) 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Sri Lanka	1972–78 87–90 2005–08 11–14(D)	
Sudan	1969–72 75–78 93–96 1999–2005 08–11 11–14(D) 14–17 21–24(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Suriname	1996–99	
Sweden	1978–81 87–90 96–99 2008–11 21–24	
Switzerland	1978–81 87–90 1999–2002 11–14(D) 17–21(D)	
Syrian AR	1969–72 96–99	
Thailand	1975–81 84–90 1996–2002 08–11 11–17(D) 17–21	
Togo	1975–78 90–93 2011–14	
Trinidad and Tobago	1975–78 1999–2002 05–08 11–17	
Tunisia	1975–81 90–96 2005–11	2024–27 (Deputy)
Türkiye	1975–78 87–90 96–99 2002–05 14–17 17–21(D)	
Uganda	1969–75 87–90 96–99 2005–08 17–21(D) 21–24	
Ukraine	1972–75 81–87 1996–2002	
UAE	1990–93 1999–2002 11–14(D) 14–17	
UK[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
UR of Tanzania	1975–78 87–90 1999–2002 08–14 14–17(D)	2024–27 (Deputy)
USA[3]	2011–24	2024–27 (Regular)
Uruguay	1969–72 78–84 87–96 2002–05 08–11 11–21(D)	2024–27 (Regular)
Uzbekistan		2024–27 (Deputy)
Venezuela	1969–72 75–96 1999–2011 11–14(D) 14–17	
Viet Nam	1969–72 2002–14	

Yemen	1999–2002
Zambia	1972–75 78–81 2008–14
Zimbabwe	1981–87 93–96 2011–14(D) 14–17

Employers' group (June 2024 to June 2027)

Regular members

N Beckman, Sweden
H Diop, Senegal
A Furlan, Brazil
S Janahi, Bahrain
T Mackall, USA
B Matthey, Switzerland
J Mugo, Kenya
E Nagasawa, Japan
A Sobti, India
M Thorns, Germany
J Tinsley, Australia
A Vauchez, France
F Yllanes, Mexico
H Zouanat, Morocco

Deputy members

F Ahmed, Bangladesh
A Alsayegh, Saudi Arabia
J Andriamamonjiarison, Madagascar
N Chenard, Congo
A Franke, Germany
K Ghariani, Tunisia
L Giménez, Argentina
D Hynes, Canada
H Liu, China
S Mayers-Granville, Barbados
M Moskvina, Russian Federation
K Moyane, South Africa
D Opio, Uganda
A Oyerinde, Nigeria
M Pinto Lomeña, Spain
G Ricci, Guatemala
T Schoenmaeckers, Netherlands
S H Syed Husman, Malaysia
M Téran, Ecuador

Workers' group (June 2024 to June 2027)

Regular members

H Arfaoui, Tunisia
F Atwoli, Kenya
A Brown, UK
L Chang, Canada
W Dichun, China
S R Gongalla, India
A Gono, Japan
M Guiro, Senegal
B Lestic, France
G Martínez, Argentina
M Norddahl, Iceland
M O'Neil, Australia
C Passchier, Netherlands
J Vogt, USA

Deputy members

A Amancio Vale, Brazil
K F Amenu, Ethiopia
Z Awan, Pakistan
A Baah, Ghana
S Choo, Singapore
P Dimitrov, Bulgaria
E Familia, Dominican Republic
R Lamas, Belgium
L M Léon Molina, Venezuela
Z Losi, South Africa
D Mongo, Congo
T Moore, Barbados
L Ocmin, Italy
J E Oñate Vera, Mexico
S A F Saed, State of Palestine[4]
P S Soe, Myanmar
M J Veiga de Almeida, Cabo Verde
A Wünsche, Germany
A Zharkov, Russian Federation

Notes

1 The 2017–20 term was extended a year, until the deferred 109th session of the International Labour Conference in June 2021. Argentina and Chile agreed to share a seat for the 2017–20 term (extended to June 2021), with Argentina serving from June 2017 to December 2018 and Chile serving from January 2019 to June 2021.

2 Czechoslovakia served on the Governing Body 1969–72, 1978–81 and 1984–92. The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the ILO Governing Body in 1975–81 and 1984–90. It was not automatically succeeded by any of the new states created following its dissolution.

3 Members holding non-elective seats as 'states of chief industrial importance'.

4 The ILO uses the expression 'Occupied Palestinian Territory'. This does not imply any opinion whatsoever on the part of the ILO concerning the legal status of that territory.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

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00153 Rome
Italy

Telephone: +39 06 57051
Fax: +39 06 570 53152
Email: FAO-HQ@fao.org

Website: www.fao.org and www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies
Director-General: Qu Dongyu, China (since August 2019; re-elected in July 2023 to serve a second four-year term from 1 August 2023 until 31 July 2027)

Purpose

The FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. It was established in 1945, when 44 governments accepted the Constitution as drafted by an interim commission. The functions and assets of the former International Institute of Agriculture in Rome were transferred to the new body. By GA res. 50/227 (1996), the FAO and the World Food Programme absorbed the functions of the World Food Council, which was discontinued.

Structure

The Conference is the FAO's sovereign governing body and comprises all members and associate members. Representatives of members meet biennially to review global governance policy issues and international frameworks, as well as to evaluate work carried out and approve the budget for the next biennium. The Director-General is elected at the Conference for a four-year term, renewable once. The Council's Independent Chair is appointed by the Conference for a two-year term, renewable once. The Conference elects 49 Council members to serve three-year staggered terms to carry out executive oversight of programme and budgetary activities. The other governing bodies are three Council Committees (Programme Committee, Finance Committee, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters), four Technical Committees (Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Commodity Problems, Committee on Fisheries, Committee on Forestry), the Committee on World Food Security and Regional Conferences. More governance information is on the Governing and Statutory Bodies website.

Meetings

The FAO Conference meets in regular session every two years, most recently from 28 June to 4 July 2025. The Council normally meets at least five times between the two-yearly Conference sessions. All sessions are held in Rome.

Membership

The FAO has 194 member nations, two associate members (the Faroe Islands and Tokelau)[1] and one member organization (the European Union).[2] For the purpose of Council elections, FAO membership is divided into seven regional groups, each with a fixed number of seats, as shown in the following list. Terms in the following list are usually for three years, beginning on 1 July or at the end of a regular session of the Conference. Details of shared terms are on the Governing and Statutory Bodies website. Members that have not served on the Council are not listed.

FAO Council Members as at July 2025 (49)*

	Previous	Current
Africa (49 members, 12 seats)		
Algeria	1969–71 1977–80 87–89 95–98 2017–20	
Angola	1981–83 89–94 2003–06 13–16 19–25	
Benin	1973–75 83–85 2016–19	
Botswana	1979–81	

Burkina Faso*	1969–72 81–84 93–96 1999–2004 19–22	
Burundi	1975–77 2021–22	2024–27
Cabo Verde	1981–84 91–96 2005–07 11–13 17–20	
Cameroon	1961–63 79–82 85–93 1995–2003 11–20 21–23	2023–26
Central African Republic	1967–70	
Chad	1965–67 77–80	
Congo	1973–76 77–80 81–86 89–92 93–98 2003–06 07–10 12–24	2024–27
Côte d'Ivoire	1965–68 1979–82 91–93 2003–08 11–13 16–19 22–25	
DR Congo	1971–73 77–80 87–89 2005–07	
Equatorial Guinea	2011–13 15–24	
Eritrea	1997–2000 05–07 12–15 20–23	
Eswatini	1993–96 2003–05	
Ethiopia	1965–70 73–75 81–84 89–91 1999–2002 07–09 15–18 21–24	
Gabon	1973–77 1987–2004 07–15	
Gambia	1975–77 85–89	
Ghana	1959–62 77–81 89–92 95–98 2001–04 09–11	2025–28
Guinea	1973–76 87–91 2011–14 19–25	
Guinea-Bissau	1977–79	
Kenya	1965–68 71–74 81–83 87–93 2001–03 07–10 16–19 22–25	2025–28
Lesotho	1973–75 81–84 87–90 1999–2002 16–19	2023–26
Liberia	1953–56 77–80 85–87 2013–16	
Madagascar	1961–64 79–81 87–95 1999–2001 05–08 13–16	
Malawi	1975–78 83–85	
Mali	1967–69 2005–07 14–17	
Mauritania	1997–2002 22–25	
Mauritius	1975–78 95–98 2003–05 09–12	
Morocco	1959–65 71–74 81–83 89–92 1999–2001 07–10 13–16	2023–26
Mozambique	2009–12	
Namibia	1997–2000	
Niger	1975–78 85–88 2007–10	2025–28*
Nigeria	1963–65 69–71 81–83 87–90 93–95 2003–08	
Rwanda	1977–79 83–85 91–94	
São Tomé and Príncipe	1983–86	
Senegal	1963–66 79–81 85–87 1997–2002 07–10	2025–28
Sierra Leone	1971–74 83–86	
South Africa	1947–53 57–59 97–99 2007–09 13–16 17–23	2025–28
South Sudan	2018–21	
Togo	1971–73 2011–14	
Tunisia	1965–68 75–77 83–86 93–95 2001–04 11–13 20–23	
Uganda	1965–69 77–79 83–86 93–99 2003–06 11–13 19–22	2023–26
UR of Tanzania	1969–72 77–80 85–87 91–97 2001–04 09–11	2024–27
Zambia	1969–71 79–82 85–88 91–93 2005–08 16–19	
Zimbabwe	1985–87 95–97 2001–03 09–11 14–17 19–22	

Asia (25 members, 9 seats)

Bangladesh	1977–88 1991–2000 03–09 12–15 21–24	2024–27
China	1947–49 1973–2024	2024–27
India	1947–2008 09–23	2023–26
Indonesia	1955–64 1967–2000 03–14 15–18 20–24	2024–27
Japan	1953–61 1965–2024	2024–27

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Malaysia	1965–67 79–91 93–97 1999–2002 07–09 14–17 19–20 22–23 2025–26[3]
Myanmar	1949–52 2020–21
Nepal	1967–70
Pakistan	1949–55 57–93 1997–2023 2023–26
Philippines	1947–49 53–58 61–64 67–79 81–93 2001–06 09–19 21–24 2024–27
ROK	1965–67 1989–2024 2024–27
Sri Lanka	1961–64 71–81 93–96 2001–03 09–12 15–21
Thailand	1953–57 59–61 1973–2015 17–18 20–22 23–24[3]
Viet Nam	2018–19

Europe (48 members, 10 seats)

Andorra	2019–21
Armenia	2003–06
Austria	1961–64 83–86 1999–2001 18–20
Azerbaijan	2019–21
Belarus	2021–24
Belgium	1949–52 55–58 61–64 69–71 77–80 93–95 2007–10 19–22
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2021–23
Bulgaria	1973–80 83–86 2001–04 17–19
Croatia	2023–25[4]
Cyprus	1983–85 91–94 2001–03 15–16
Czechia	2001–03 14–17
Denmark	1947–51 61–63 73–75 85–87 97–99 2011–14
Estonia	1995–97 2016–19
Finland	1951–54 63–66 75–78 87–90 2003–05 17–20
France	1947–2008 09–11 14–17 18–20 21–23 24–25 2025–28*
Georgia	2023–25[5]
Germany	1959–61 1965–2015 16–17 19–20 22–24 2025–26[6]
Greece	1965–67 77–79 89–91 1997–2000 11–13
Hungary	1971–74 77–80 87–89 91–94 1999–2001 13–16
Iceland	1999–2002 14–17 2024–27*
Ireland	1961–64 81–83 1995–98 2011–13 2025–27[4]
Israel	1967–68 20–23[6]
Italy*	1947–65 1971–2016 17–18 20–22 23–25[6]
Lithuania	2023–25
Luxembourg	2021–23
Malta	1977–80 2005–07
Monaco	2019–21
Montenegro	2016–18
Netherlands	1947–49 53–55 59–61 75–77 89–92 2005–07 24–25[4]
North Macedonia	2017–18
Norway	1957–60 69–72 81–84 93–96 2009–11 2023–26
Poland	1965–67 69–71 81–83 89–92 1997–2000 11–14 2025–27[4]
Portugal	1959–61 79–82 89–92 95–98 2001–04 12–15
Republic of Moldova	2007–09
Romania	1967–73 81–83 95–98 2003–06 16–19
Russian Federation	2007–17 18–23
San Marino	2015–17
Slovakia	1993–95 2009–12
Slovenia	2005–07 22–24
Spain*	1953–58 75–77 83–85 87–89 93–95 1999–2001 09–12 15–16 17–18 21–22 23–25[5]
Sweden	1953–57 67–69 79–81 91–93 2005–08 20–23

Switzerland	1953–57 71–74 87–90 2001–04	2025–26[5]
Türkiye	1955–58 67–70 86–88 95–97 2007–10 13–16	2025–28
Ukraine	2007–09 24–25	2025–28*
UK	1947 1947–55 1957–2011 12–15 16–18 19–20 22–24	2025–26[5]

Latin America and Caribbean (33 members, 9 seats)

Argentina*	1953–58 61–67 1971–2003 11–22	2022–25
Bahamas	2019–22	2022–25
Barbados	1981–83 1995–2004	
Bolivia	2001–10	
Brazil	1947–53 1957–2025	2025–28
Chile	1947–56 59–64 67–75 1991–2019 21–24	2024–27
Colombia	1953–61 65–95 2003–04	2025–28
Costa Rica	1955–57 63–71 91–93 2019–22	2022–25
Cuba	1947–49 51–54 57–63 1977–2016	
Dominican Republic	2019–21	
Ecuador	1975–78 81–87 2011–20	2024–27*
El Salvador	1979–81 2005–08 09–11 12–15	
Guatemala	1999–2005 21–23	2024–27
Honduras	1993–99	2025–28*
Jamaica	1977–80	2025–28
Mexico	1947–51 57–62 1973–2025	2025–28
Nicaragua	1985–91 2015–24	
Panama	73–85 2003–09	2023–26
Paraguay	1999–2001	
Peru*	1965–76 87–90 2001–06 21–24	
Trinidad and Tobago	1975–77 83–95 2005–19	
Uruguay	1953–56 67–70 95–98 2007–12 16–19	
Venezuela	1949–52 63 65–66 71–75 1977–2000 09–21	

Near East (21 members, 6 seats)

Afghanistan	1965–71 77–83 85–87 2009–25[7]	
Egypt	1947–63 1967–2008 09–23	2023–26
Iran	1957–65 71–74 1987–2009 11–16	
Iraq	1953–56 69–71 77–80 83–91 2013–16 22–23[9]	
Jordan	1963–66 75–77 2009–15 18–21	
Kuwait	1973–75 79–81 1995–2001 07–10 15–19 21–24	2024–27
Lebanon	1953–56 59–65 75–79 81–98 2005–08	
Libya	1975–78 87–95 2001–04	
Oman	2005–07	2025–26[7]
Qatar	1999–2004 16–25	2025–28
Saudi Arabia	1969–72 1979–2008 09–23	2023–26
Somalia	1967–69	
Sudan	1965–68 73–78 81–84 91–93 2007–10 16–19 20–22 23–25	2025–28
Syrian AR	1957–58 71–74 79–82 1993–2005 11–13	
UAE	2005–07	
Yemen	1983–86	

North America (2 members, 2 seats)

Canada	1947–2025	2025–28
USA	1947–2025	2025–28

South-West Pacific (16 members, 1 seat)

Australia	1947–57 61–63 67–69 73–75 79–81 1985–2008 09–23	2023–26
New Zealand	1957–60 63–66 69–72 75–78 81–84	

Notes

* Peru will replace Ecuador from 1 January 2026 to the end of the 45th Session of the Conference (2027). Argentina will replace Honduras from 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2028. Spain will replace Iceland from 1 July 2026 to the end of the 45th Session of the Conference (2027). Italy and Serbia will replace France and Ukraine, respectively, from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2028. Burkina Faso will replace Niger from 1 January 2027 to 30 June 2028.

1 Associate members have the right to participate in the deliberations of the FAO Conference, commissions of the Conference, committees of such commissions and other committees established by the Conference for the duration of the Conference and in any discussions at meetings of the Council, but shall not hold office nor have the right to vote. They cannot participate in the Credentials Committee or General Committee.

2 The European Union (EU) has the right to participate in matters within its competence in any meeting of the Organization, other than those bodies with restricted membership, in which any of its Member States are entitled to participate. It exercises membership rights in those meetings on an alternative basis with those of its Member States that are members of the Council, or other bodies concerned in the areas of their respective competencies. The EU is not eligible for election or designation to any such body in its own right, nor is it entitled to participate in voting for elective places or to hold office itself. The EU is not entitled to participate in the Programme Committee, Finance Committee or Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

3 Malaysia replaced Thailand from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2026.

4 Poland and Ireland replaced Croatia and the Netherlands, respectively, from the end of the 44th Session of the Conference (2025) to the end of the 45th Session of the Conference (2027).

5 Switzerland and the UK replaced Georgia and Spain, respectively, from the end of the 44th Session of the Conference (2025) to 30 June 2026.

6 Germany replaced Italy from the end of the 44th Session of the Conference (2025) to 30 June 2026.

7 Oman replaced Afghanistan for the remainder of its term, from the end of the 44th Session of the Conference (2025) to 30 June 2026, as Afghanistan was deemed to have resigned in accordance with Rule XXII.7 GRO.

FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

Secretariat
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Joint FAO/WHO Centre (CODEX Food Standards and Zoonotic Diseases) (CJW)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy

Telephone: +39 06 57051
Email: Codex@fao.org

Website: www.codexalimentarius.org
Secretary: Sarah Cahill, Ireland (since June 2024)

Purpose

The Commission's mandate is to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade by preparing, publishing and revising international food standards and by promoting the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international organizations. The Commission was established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963 in the framework of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

To date, the Commission has adopted hundreds of standards (for single commodities, groups of commodities or horizontal subjects such as labelling or food additives), codes of practice and guidelines. It has adopted thousands of maximum limits for food additives and contaminants, as well as pesticide and veterinary drug residues in foods. Together, these texts form the Codex Alimentarius. Details, including standards, guidelines and codes of practice, as well as online databases for quantitative standards, are on the Commission's website under the 'Codex Texts' menu.

The Codex Alimentarius promotes the harmonization of food standards at the international level. Codex food safety-related standards, guidelines and codes of practice serve as a

reference in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The Agreement recognizes the Commission as one of three international standard-setting organizations known as the 'three sisters', the other two being the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Codex texts also have relevance as international standards in the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

Structure

The Executive Committee provides advice to the Commission on general orientation, strategic planning and work programming. The technical work is done by Codex specialist committees and task forces, which prepare draft standards and related texts for adoption by the Commission. Currently there are 10 active general subject committees and five active commodity committees, which can change according to work priorities. The committees rely on independent scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO expert groups – the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA), Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU) – and ad hoc consultations. Six regional coordinating committees address regional food safety issues, including standards development, and in some regions also prepare standards of regional relevance. The Secretariat is based in the Joint FAO/WHO Centre (CODEX Food Standards and Zoonotic Diseases) (CJW) at the FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Membership

Membership of the Commission is open to FAO and WHO members and associate members. As at 1 July 2025, there were 188 member countries and the European Union (listed on the website under 'About Codex' and 'Members'). There are currently 242 international observer organizations accredited to participate in meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including 59 intergovernmental organizations, 167 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 16 UN organizations.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

7 Place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris
France

Telephone: +33 1 4568 1000
Email: info@unesco.org

Website: www.unesco.org
Director-General: Audrey Azoulay, France (since 15 November 2017; re-elected by the General Conference, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, for a second four-year term from November 2021 until the end of the General Conference in November 2025)*

Purpose

UNESCO was established in 1945 to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among countries through education, science and culture. Its aims are set out in Article 1, para. 3 of the UN Charter, and its purpose is stated in Article 1 of its Constitution.

The Organization has two global priorities – Africa and gender equality – and has the overarching objectives of contributing to lasting peace, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

Structure

- The General Conference determines the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization. Its duty is to set UNESCO's programmes and budget.
- The Executive Board comprises 58 Member States elected by the General Conference to serve four-year terms (half are elected every two years). It ensures the overall management

of UNESCO, oversees the implementation of the programme and budget and prepares the work of the General Conference. Each Member State appoints a representative with competence in fields related to UNESCO and qualified to fulfil the administrative and executive duties of the Board. Alternates may also be appointed. The Board Chair for 2023–25 is Vera El Khoury Lacoeuilhe, Saint Lucia.

UNESCO is host to a number of intergovernmental bodies in charge of specific activities within the Organization's mandate, including the: World Heritage Committee (WHC, see following entry), Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), International Coordinating Council of the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP), Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in the Case of Illicit Appropriation (ICPRCP), Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) and Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC). More governance information is on the website under 'Quick links', 'Who We Are' and 'Governance'.

Meetings

The General Conference meets every two years. The 43rd session is scheduled to be held from 30 October to 14 November 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The Executive Board meets in regular sessions at least four times in any two-year period. As a general rule, there are at least two regular sessions a year, normally in April and October.

Membership

UNESCO has 194 Member States[1] and 12 associate members. The electoral grouping system allocates each region a specific number of Executive Board seats. The four-year terms run from the close of the General Conference session where members were elected until the close of the second ordinary General Conference session following their election.

Executive Board members[1] (58)

	Previous	Current
Group I (25 Western European and North American states, 9 seats)[1]		
Austria	1972–76 95–99 2011–15	2021–25
Belgium	1946–51 56–64 74–78 80–89 95–99 2009–13	
Canada	1946–51 68–74 83–87 89–93 1997–2001 03–07	
Cyprus	1987–91	
Denmark	1952–58 78–83 91–95 2009–13	
Finland	1966–74 87–91 1997–2001 17–21	
France	1946–2023	2023–27
Germany	1954–68 1970–2005 07–11 13–17 19–23	2023–27
Greece	1946–51 56–64 83–87 1999–2003 07–11 15–19	
Iceland	1983–87 2001–05	2021–25
Italy	1948–58 62–70 72–89 93–97 1999–2023	2023–27
Luxembourg	2005–09	
Malta	1995–99	
Monaco	2009–13	
Netherlands	1946–47 51–56 66–74 91–95 1999–2003 13–17 19–23	

Norway	1946–52 74–78 89–93 2005–09	
Portugal	1976–80 91–95 2005–09 17–21	
Spain	1954–60 70–76 80–85 87–91 93–97 1999–2003 07–23	2023–27
Sweden	1958–66 85–89 95–99 2013–17	
Switzerland	1950–54 64–72 76–80 87–91 93–97 2003–07 19–23	
Türkiye	1946–52 58–66 78–83 91–95 2001–05 17–21	2021–25
UK	1946–85 1997–2005 05–07 11–19	2023–27
USA[1]	1946–84 2003–18	2023–27

Group II (25 Eastern European states, 7 seats)[2]

Albania[3]	2007–09 13–21	2023–27
Armenia		2021–25
Azerbaijan	2005–09	2021–25
Belarus	1989–93 1999–2005 09–13 17–21	
Bulgaria[3]	1972–76 85–89 93–97 2007–09 17–21	
Czechia	1995–99 2003–07 11–15	2023–27
Estonia	2013–17	
Georgia	1999–2003	
Hungary[3]	1964–72 78–83 95–99 2003–07 07–09 19–23	
Latvia	2009–11	
Lithuania	1997–2001 05–09 15–19	2021–25
Montenegro	2011–15	
North Macedonia	2013–15	
Poland	1946–50 56–64 76–80 87–91 93–97 1999–2003 09–11 19–23	
Romania	1962–68 76–80 91–95 1999–2003 09–11	
Russian Federation	1954–2023	
Serbia	2005–09 15–23	2023–27
Slovakia	1995–99 2001–05 09–13	2023–27
Slovenia	2003–07 15–19	
Ukraine	1980–85 95–99 2001–05 13–17	
Uzbekistan	2009–13	

Group III (33 Latin America and the Caribbean states, 10 seats)

Antigua and Barbuda	1985–89	
Argentina	1962–70 72–76 78–83 85–93 95–99 2007–11 13–17 19–23	2023–27
Bahamas	2001–07	
Barbados	1976–80 1997–2001 09–13	
Belize	2013–15	
Bolivia	1995–99	
Brazil	1946–52 54–62 64–72 74–78 80–89 91–95 2001–09 11–23	2023–27
Chile	1962–70 72–76 93–97 1999–2003 07–11	2021–25
Colombia	1948–54 70–76 80–89 91–95 1997–2001 05–09	
Costa Rica	1966–74 80–85 89–97	
Cuba	1974–78 80–85 87–91 95–99 2001–05 07–15 17–21	2023–27
Dominica	2001–05	
Dominican Republic	1999–2003 13–17 19–23	2023–27
Ecuador	1947–48 54–62 76–80 2003–07 11–15	
El Salvador	1956–64 93–97 2007–11 13–17	
Grenada	2009–13 17–21	2021–25
Guatemala	1978–83 89–93 2003–07	
Guyana	1983–87 93–97	

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Haiti 1980–85 1997–2001 09–13 15–17 2021–25
Honduras 1997–2001
Jamaica[3] 1970–76 80–85 91–95 2001–05 07–09 17–21
Mexico 1946–54 58–66 68–74 76–80 83–87 89–97 1999–2003 05–09 11–19 2021–25
Nicaragua 1989–93 2015–19
Panama 1962–68 76–80
Paraguay 2015–19 2021–25
Peru 1952–54 64–72 76–80 85–89 1999–2003 09–13
Saint Kitts and Nevis 2005–09 13–17
Saint Lucia 1997–2001 09–13 17–21 2021–25
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2005–09 17–21
Suriname 1987–91 2001–05
Trinidad and Tobago 1985–89 93–97 2013–17
Uruguay 1952–58 72–76 89–93 1997–2001 03–07 19–23
Venezuela 1946–52 56–64 76–80 83–91 2003–07 09–13 17–21

Group IV (44 Asia and Pacific states, 12 seats)

Afghanistan 1968–74 2003–07 11–15 19–23
Australia 1946–50 56–60 74–78 85–89 91–95 1999–2005 2023–27
Bangladesh 1983–87 1995–2007 09–21 2023–27
Cambodia 2003–07
China 1946–50 1972–2021 2021–25
Cook Islands 2021–25
Fiji 2005–09
India 1946–2021 2021–25
Indonesia 1954–62 76–80 85–89 95–99 2003–07 11–15 17–21 2023–27
Iran 1952–58 64–68 74–78 1999–2003 15–19
Japan 1952–95 1997–2021 2021–25
Kazakhstan 1997–2001 09–13
Kyrgyzstan 2019–23
Malaysia 1978–83 87–91 93–97 1999–2003 07–11 15–19
Mongolia 1983–87 2007–11
Myanmar 2019–23
Nepal 1974–78 95–99 2005–09 13–17
New Zealand 1960–64 78–83 95–99
Pakistan 1951–66 68–74 1978–2023 2023–27
Papua New Guinea 1989–93 2011–15
Philippines 1950–54 58–62 74–78 83–87 91–95 1999–2003 07–11 17–21 2021–25
ROK 1987–2003 07–23 2023–27
Samoa 1997–2001 2023–27
Sri Lanka 1968–74 87–91 2003–11 15–19
Thailand 1952–56 80–85 89–93 95–99 2005–09 11–15 19–23
Tonga 1993–97
Turkmenistan 2013–17
Vanuatu 2001–05
Viet Nam 1978–83 2001–05 09–13 15–19 2021–25

Group V (66 African and Arab states, 13 African seats and 7 Arab seats)

Algeria 1968–74 80–89 91–95 2001–17
Angola 1993–97 2011–15 2021–25

Bahrain	1991–95 2003–07	
Benin	1972–76 85–89 93–97 1999–2003 05–09 19–23	
Botswana	1991–95	2021–25
Burkina Faso	1974–78 89–93 2001–05 09–13	2023–27
Burundi	1978–83 89–93 2017–21	
Cabo Verde	1989–93 2003–07	
Cameroon	1962–68 80–89 95–99 2003–07 15–19	
Central African Republic	1983–87	
Chad	1962–70 76–80 89–93 1999–2003 13–17	
Congo	1968–74 85–89 2003–07 09–13	2021–25
Côte d'Ivoire	1964–72 76–80 85–89 91–95 1997–2001 07–11 15–19	2023–27
DR Congo	1970–76 80–85 2005–11 19–23	
Djibouti	2009–13	2021–25
Egypt	1946–51 54–80 1985–2021	2021–25
Equatorial Guinea	1987–91 2017–21	
Eswatini	1983–87 2001–05	
Ethiopia	1968–74 85–89 93–97 1999–2003 05–09 11–15 17–21	
Gabon	1974–78 83–87 1997–2001 11–15	2023–27
Gambia	1989–93 2011–15	
Ghana	1970–76 80–85 91–95 1997–2001 03–07 09–13 15–23	
Guinea	1980–85 89–93 1997–2001 13–17 19–23	
Guinea-Bissau	1980–85	
Iraq	1978–83 89–93	2023–27
Jordan	1976–80 85–89 93–97 2001–05 17–21	2021–25
Kenya	1972–76 87–91 95–99 2001–05 09–13 15–23	
Kuwait	1983–87 1999–2003 07–11 13–15	2021–25
Lebanon	1950–58 66–74 83–87 1997–2001 05–09 15–19	
Lesotho	1978–83 95–99	
Liberia	1953–56 76–80	2023–27
Libya	1976–80 1997–2001	
Madagascar	1960–64 83–87 91–95 1999–2003 07–11 17–21	
Malawi	1987–91 1999–2003 11–15	
Mali	1962–70 85–89 93–97 2003–07 11–15	
Mauritania	1974–78 87–91	
Mauritius	1976–80 95–99 2003–07 13–17	2023–27
Morocco	1958–66 78–83 93–97 1999–2011 13–21	
Mozambique	1987–91 2001–05 13–17	2023–27
Namibia	1993–97 2003–07 11–15 19–23	
Niger	1983–87 93–97 2007–11	
Nigeria	1962–70 76–85 87–91 93–97 1999–2003 05–09 11–19	2023–27
Oman	1991–95 1999–2003 15–19	2023–27
Qatar	1987–91 2015–19	2023–27
Rwanda	1976–80 2001–05	
Saudi Arabia	1972–76 95–99 2007–15 19–23	2023–27
Senegal	1966–74 78–83 85–89 95–99 2001–05 07–11 15–23	
Seychelles	1991–95	
Sierra Leone	1976–80	
Somalia	1987–91	
South Africa	1997–2001 05–09 15–19	2021–25

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Sudan	1962–66 78–87 2015–19
Syrian AR	1951–54 74–78 83–87 2009–13
Togo	1972–76 87–91 1997–2001 05–09 13–17 19–23
Tunisia	1974–78 80–85 91–95 1999–2003 07–15 19–23
Uganda	1974–78 87–91 1997–2001 05–09 13–17
UAE	1980–85 95–99 2011–15 19–23
UR of Tanzania	1964–72 80–85 89–93 95–99 2001–05 07–11 2021–25
Yemen	1989–93 95–99 2003–07
Zambia	1966–74 91–95 2007–11 17–21
Zimbabwe	1983–87 95–99 2009–13 17–21

Members that have not served on the Board

Group I (Western European and North American states)

Andorra	Ireland	San Marino

Group II (Eastern European states)

Bosnia and Herzegovina	Republic of Moldova
Croatia	Tajikistan

Group IV (Asia and Pacific states)

Bhutan	Maldives	Palau
Brunei Darussalam	Marshall Islands	Singapore
DPRK	Micronesia	Solomon Islands
Kiribati	Nauru	Timor-Leste
Lao PDR	Niue	Tuvalu

Group V (African and Arab states)

Comoros	São Tomé and Príncipe	State of Palestine[4]
Eritrea	South Sudan	

Associate members[5]

Åland Islands	Cayman Islands	Montserrat
Anguilla	Curaçao	New Caledonia
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Sint Maarten
British Virgin Islands	Macau, China	Tokelau

Observer status[6]

Holy See Sovereign Military Order of Malta

Notes

* Elections for the next Director-General are due to be held at the General Conference in November 2025.

1 Israel withdrew from the Organization effective 31 December 2018. It served on the Executive Board as a member of Group I in 1962–70. The USA withdrew from the Organization effective 31 December 2018; it officially rejoined UNESCO on 10 July 2023.

2 Czechoslovakia served on the Executive Board as a member of Group II in 1946–48, 1968–74 and 1980–85. The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Executive Board as a member of Group II in 1951–53, 1972–76, 1983–87, 1989–91 and 1991–92.

3 Four members: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Jamaica – whose mandate was to expire in 2011 – volunteered to leave the Executive Board in 2009 to facilitate the rotation among countries.

4 The UNESCO General Conference voted in October 2011 to admit the State of Palestine as a Member State of the Organization. The State of Palestine had previously been an observer.

5 Netherlands Antilles, as a territory, has ceased to exist. It was previously an associate member.

6 Other intergovernmental organizations also participate as observers.

World Heritage Committee

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UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07–SP
France

Telephone: +33 1 4568 1104
Email: Please use the contact form at http://whc.unesco.org/en/world-heritage-centre/

Website: https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/
World Heritage Centre Director: Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Cameroon (appointed by the UNESCO Director-General in December 2021)

Purpose

The General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted the World Heritage Convention in 1972 to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value. The Convention stipulated the establishment of a World Heritage Committee and a World Heritage List.

Established in 1976, the Committee is an intergovernmental body that is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It has the final say, in response to Tentative Lists and nominations submitted by States Parties, as to which natural, cultural or mixed sites can be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Committee determines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates international assistance upon requests from States Parties. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties, requests expert monitoring, assessments and advice, decides upon the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests States Parties to take action when inscribed properties are under threat. It also decides which properties should be deleted from the World Heritage List and which properties on this List should be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Committee reports on its activities to the General Assembly of States Parties to the 1972 Convention and to the UNESCO General Conference, reviews the implementation of the Convention and revises the operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

As at 16 July 2025, 1248 properties in 170 States Parties were inscribed on the World Heritage List – 972 cultural, 235 natural, 41 mixed and 51 transboundary properties. The Convention has 196 States Parties (as at 1 July 2025).

Structure

The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention elects the 21 countries that sit on the Committee, part of which is replaced every second year. Members' terms of office are six years, but in practice most States Parties voluntarily choose to serve four years to allow for rotation. The Bureau of the Committee is composed of a chair, five vice-chairs and a rapporteur, elected at the end of each ordinary session. The Bureau coordinates the Committee's work. More governance information is on the website under 'Our Expertise' and 'Governing Bodies'.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) is the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention. It was established in 1992 to assist the World Heritage Committee and to collaborate with States Parties and advisory bodies.

Meetings

The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention meets every two years immediately after ordinary sessions of UNESCO's General Conference to elect Committee members,

examine the accounts of the World Heritage Fund and decide on major policy issues. The 25th session is scheduled to be held in November 2025, opening in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and resuming two weeks later at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. The Committee meets at least once a year. Most recently, the 47th session took place from 6 to 16 July 2025. The Bureau meets during Committee sessions as frequently as deemed necessary.

Membership

The following list shows the current members of the Committee and the year in which their terms end (at the end of the ordinary session of the UNESCO General Conference). The members whose terms end in 2027 were elected in November 2023.

Members

Term ends 2025

Argentina
Belgium
Bulgaria
Greece
India
Italy
Japan
Mexico
Qatar
Rwanda
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Zambia

Term ends 2027

Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
ROK
Senegal
Türkiye
Ukraine
Viet Nam

World Health Organization (WHO)

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Email: info@who.int
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WHO
X: @WHO

Website: www.who.int

Director-General: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia (appointed by the World Health Assembly in May 2017 for a five-year term beginning 1 July 2017; reappointed by the World Health Assembly in May 2022 for a second five-year term, beginning 16 August 2022)

Purpose

WHO is the UN system's directing and coordinating authority for health. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Representatives of 61 states adopted the WHO Constitution in 1946. The Organization formally came into existence in April 1948 and became a UN specialized agency in July 1948. Article 1 of the Constitution defines the WHO's objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health". The detailed functions are set out in Article 2 of the Constitution.

Structure

The World Health Assembly is the WHO's supreme decision-making body, with the main function of determining policy. The Executive Board comprises 34 members technically qualified in the health field, each one designated by a Member State elected by the World Health Assembly to do so. Members serve three-year terms. The Chair from May 2025 to May 2026 is Blair Comley, Australia. See https://apps.who.int/gb/gov/ for more information.

Meetings

The Assembly meets annually, usually in Geneva in May. The Board meets in Geneva at least twice a year, usually in January/February and May.

Membership

The WHO has 194 Member States. The three-year Executive Board member terms end with the election of new members at the World Health Assembly.

Executive Board members

	Previous	Current
Africa (47 members, 7 seats)		
Algeria	1969–72 95–98 2016–19	
Angola	1977–80 96–99	
Benin	1966–69 96–99 2017–20	
Botswana	1977–80 96–99 2020–23	
Burkina Faso	1969–72 96–99 2019–22	
Burundi	1978–81 1997–2000 09–12 16–19	
Cabo Verde	1978–81 1998–2001	2025–28
Cameroon	1964–67 92–95 2011–14	2023–26
Central African Republic	1969–72 1998–2001	2025–28
Chad	1978–81 1999–2002 12–15	
Comoros	1978–81 1999–2002	2023–26
Congo	1979–82 1999–2002 15–18	
Côte d'Ivoire	1967–70 84–87 1999–2002	
DR Congo	1972–75 93–96 14–17	
Equatorial Guinea	1984–87 2000–03	
Eritrea	1983–86 2001–04 14–17	
Eswatini	1975–78 92–95 2017–20	
Ethiopia	1969–73 2001–04 22–25	
Gabon	1980–83 2002–05 18–21	
Gambia	1980–83 2002–05 14–17	
Ghana	1960–63 83–86 2002–05 20–23	
Guinea	1965–68 84–87 2002–05	
Guinea-Bissau	1981–84 2003–06 20–23	
Kenya	1970–73 84–87 2004–07 19–22	
Lesotho	1971–74 85–88 2004–07	2023–26
Liberia	1951–54 57–60 86–89 2005–08 14–17	
Madagascar	1961–64 86–89 2005–08 20–23	
Malawi	1973–76 87–90 2007–10	
Mali	1963–66 87–90 2006–09	
Mauritania	1975–78 87–90 2008–11	
Mauritius	1974–77 87–90 2008–11	
Mozambique	1981–84 88–91 2010–13	
Namibia	2005–08 13–16	
Niger	1972–75 89–92 2008–11	
Nigeria	1961–62 66–69 89–92 2011–14	
Rwanda	1975–78 90–93 2005–08 21–24	
São Tomé and Príncipe	1981–84 90–93 2007–10	
Senegal	1961–64 90–93 2011–14 22–25	
Seychelles	1981–84 90–93 2010–13	
Sierra Leone	1963–66 91–94 2011–14	
South Africa	1948–51 54–57 2013–16	
Togo	1975–77 93–96	2023–26

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Uganda	1968–71 93–96 2008–11	
UR of Tanzania	1975–78 93–96 2017–20	
Zambia	1976–79 94–97 2017–20	
Zimbabwe	1982–85 95–98	2024–27

The Americas (35 members, 6 seats)

Argentina	1955–58 60–62 66–69 74–77 83–86 88–91 95–98 2013–16 19–22	
Bahamas	1989–92 2007–10	
Barbados	1995–98 2010–13	2023–26
Bolivia	1977–80 91–94 2004–07	
Brazil	1948–51 52–55 58–61 63–66 80–83 87–90 95–98 2004–07 08–11 13–16 17–20 22–25	
Canada	1952–59 62–65 68–71 75–78 80–83 85–88 92–95 1997–2000 03–06 09–12 15–18 22–25	
Chile	1950–53 54–57 61–62 68–72 82–85 89–92 1998–2001 09–12 18–21	2024–27
Colombia	1962–65 72–75 79–82 89–92 2001–04 16–19 20–23	
Costa Rica	1953–56 93–96	2024–27
Cuba	1951–54 77–80 85–88 94–97 2001–04 12–15	
Dominican Republic	2015–18	
Ecuador	1955–58 71–74 85–87 2003–06 10–13	
El Salvador	1950–53 2006–09	2025–28
Grenada	2001–04 19–22	
Guatemala	1958–61 74–77 80–83 1999–2002	
Guyana	1975–76 86–89 2019–22	
Haiti	1962–65	2025–28
Honduras	1976–79 96–99	
Jamaica	1968–71 79–82 92–95 2004–07 16–19	
Mexico	1948–50 56–59 65–68 78–81 86–89 92–95 2005–08 11–14 16–19	
Nicaragua	1970–73 88–91	
Panama	1967–70 83–86 2012–15	2025–28
Paraguay	1964–67 2007–10 21–24	
Peru	1959–62 65–68 76–79 1997–2000 07–10 21–24	
Suriname	2013–16	
Trinidad and Tobago	1971–74 82–85 1998–2001	
USA	1949–52 54–56 58–60 62–64 66–68 70–72 74–76 78–80 82–85 87–89 91–93 95–97 1999–2001 03–09 10–13 14–17 18–21 22–25	
Uruguay	1971–74 91–94	
Venezuela	1949–52 59–62 74–77 83–86 2000–03	

Eastern Mediterranean (21 members, 5 seats)

Afghanistan	1972–75 91–94 2006–09 21–24	
Bahrain	1978–81 95–98 2004–07 16–19	
Djibouti	1983–86 2006–09 18–21	
Egypt	1949–51 57–60 67–70 84–87 95–98 2001–04 13–16	2025–28
Iran	1948–49 52–55 58–61 63–66 73–76 79–82 88–91 2000–03 12–15	
Iraq	1953–56 61–64 82–85 87–93 2005–08 17–20	
Jordan	1960–63 74–77 87–90 2000–03 15–18	
Kuwait	1964–67 80–83 94–97 2002–05 14–17	
Lebanon	1951–54 68–71 86–89 1999–2002 12–15	2024–27
Libya	1964–67 77–80 88–91 2004–07 16–19	

Morocco	1965–68 82–85 93–96 2010–13 22–25	
Oman	1979–82 1997–2000 08–11 20–23	
Pakistan	1950–53 55–58 61–63 67–70 76–79 82–85 94–97 2003–06 15–18	
Qatar	1976–79 92–95 1998–2001 11–14	2023–26
Saudi Arabia	1954–57 70–73 86–89 2001–04 13–16	2025–28
Somalia	1966–69 75–78 2009–12	2024–27
Sudan	1959–62 75–77 89–92 2003–06 18–21	
Syrian AR	1956–58 71–74 83–86 92–95 2009–12 21–24	
Tunisia	1958–59 62–65 77–80 91–94 2007–10 19–22	
UAE	1981–84 96–99 2007–10 19–22	
Yemen	1965–68 73–76 80–83 85–88 90–92 1998–2001 10–13 22–25	

Europe (53 members, 8 seats)[1]

Albania	2013–16	
Andorra	2013–16	
Armenia	2010–13	
Austria	1953–56 70–73 88–91 2019–22	
Azerbaijan	2005–08 12–15	
Belarus	1948–50 2021–24	
Belgium	1951–54 68–71 83–86 1999–2002 12–15	
Bulgaria	1969–72 81–84 91–94	2024–27
Croatia	1995–98 2012–15	
Cyprus	1969–72 85–88 1997–2000	
Czechia	2003–06	
Denmark	1952–55 71–74 91–94 2006–09 21–24	
Estonia	2009–12	
Finland	1955–58 75–78 94–97 2018–21	
France	1948–2001 03–06 09–12 15–18 21–24	
Georgia	2017–20	
Germany	1957–60 67–70 73–80 85–88 1997–2000 09–12 18–21	
Greece	1951–54 76–79 91–94	
Hungary	1972–75 84–87 2008–11	
Iceland	1961–63 83–86 2003–06	
Ireland	1959–62 95–98	
Israel	1961–64 93–96 2018–21	2024–27
Italy	1950–53 56–59 61–64 71–74 2000–03 17–20	
Kazakhstan	2001–04 15–18	
Latvia	2006–09	
Lithuania	2000–03 12–15	
Luxembourg	1959–62 2004–07	
Malta	1985–88 2015–18	
Netherlands	1948–51 63–66 79–82 1997–2000 16–19	
Norway	1948–49 63–66 79–82 1997–2000 10–13	2024–27
Poland	1948–51 61–64 73–76 85–88 1996–2000	2024–27
Portugal	1955–58 77–80 92–95 2005–08	
Republic of Moldova	2007–10 22–25	
Romania	1967–70 80–83 2004–07 18–21	
Russian Federation	1948–50 1958–2005 08–11 14–17 20–23	
Serbia	1948–51 64–67 75–78 89–92 2009–12	2025–28
Slovakia	2022–25	
Slovenia	2006–09 21–24	
Spain	1961–64 81–84 89–92 2002–05	2025–28
Sweden	1949–52 67–70 87–90 2000–03 15–18	

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Switzerland 1953–56 73–76 1999–2002 11–14 2023–26
Tajikistan 2019–22
Türkiye 1949–52 64–67 79–82 93–96 2006–09 16–19
UK 1948–99 2001–04 07–10 14–17 20–23
Uzbekistan 2011–14
Ukraine 2023–26

South-East Asia (11 members, 3 seats)

Bangladesh 1975–78 87–90 1998–2001 08–11 19–22
Bhutan 1995–98 2005–08 16–19
DPRK 1990–93 2000–03 13–16 2023–26
India 1948–51 56–59 65–68 77–80 88–91 1999–2002 09–12 20–23
Maldives 1981–84 91–94 2002–05 12–15 22–25
Myanmar 1954–57 66–69 78–81 90–93 2001–04 11–14
Nepal 1959–62 69–72 83–86 93–96 2003–06 14–17 2025–28
Sri Lanka 1948–49 51–54 62–65 74–77 86–89 1997–2000 06–09 17–20
Thailand 1950–53 60–63 71–74 84–87 94–97 2004–07 15–18 2024–27
Timor-Leste 2010–13 21–24

Western Pacific (27 members, 5 seats)

Australia 1948–49 57–60 67–70 75–78 85–88 95–98 2004–07 12–15 18–21 2023–26
Brunei Darussalam 2009–12 2024–27
China 1948–50 73–76 78–85 1990–2009 10–13 14–17 18–21 22–25
Cook Islands 1997–2000
Fiji 1976–79 2016–19
Indonesia 1953–56 63–66 72–75 84–88 96–99 2007–10 18–21
Japan 1954–57 61–64 69–72 75–76 81–84 87–90 1992–2003 05–08 09–16 17–20 21–24 2025–28
Lao PDR 1970–73 1998–2001
Malaysia 1964–67 82–85 2012–15 21–24
Micronesia 2022–25
Mongolia 1968–71 80–83 92–95 2010–13
New Zealand 1952–55 63–66 72–75 79–82 2007–10 15–18
Papua New Guinea 1989–92 2011–14
Philippines 1949–52 55–58 66–69 76–79 91–94 2001–04 15–18
ROK 1960–63 84–87 95–98 2001–04 07–10 13–16 20–23 2024–27
Samoa 1979–82 2008–11
Singapore 2006–09 19–22
Solomon Islands 2025–28
Tonga 1985–86 88–91 2004–07 19–22
Vanuatu 1999–2002
Viet Nam 1958–61 93–96 2003–06 16–19

Members that have not served on the Executive Board

Africa
South Sudan

The Americas
Antigua and Barbuda
Belize
Dominica
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Europe
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Kyrgyzstan
Monaco
Montenegro
North Macedonia
San Marino
Turkmenistan

Western Pacific
Cambodia
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Tuvalu

Associate members
Faroe Islands
Puerto Rico
Tokelau

Note

1 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Executive Board in 1948–51, 1964–67, 1975–78 and 1989–92. Czechoslovakia served on the Executive Board in 1965–68, 1976–79 and 1988–91.

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/icao/

Website: www.icao.int
Secretary-General: Juan Carlos Salazar, Colombia (since 1 August 2021; appointment renewed by the ICAO Council in March 2024 for a second three-year term beginning 1 August 2024)

Purpose

The ICAO was created under the 1944 Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) “to develop the principles and techniques of international air navigation and to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to insure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world” (Article 44). ICAO’s long-term Strategic Plan through to 2050 aspires to the achievement of zero fatalities and net-zero carbon emissions as part of its vision for a “safe, secure and sustainable international civil aviation system that connects the world for the benefit of all nations and people”.

Under ICAO’s leadership, the Convention’s 193 Member States agree on the international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), policies and strategic plans this vision requires. These are developed with technical expertise provided by industry, non-governmental and academic organizations.

The Organization, a specialized agency of the UN, came into existence on 4 April 1947 after 26 states had ratified the Convention. It celebrated its 80th anniversary on 7 December 2024.

Structure

The Assembly is the ICAO's sovereign body. It meets to review the Organization's work and establish guidelines for future activities.

The Council is the executive body, comprising 36 contracting states elected by the ordinary session of the Assembly for three-year terms. The Assembly gives adequate representation to states of chief importance to air transport, states not otherwise included that make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation, and states whose designation will ensure that all major geographical areas of the world are represented.

The Council President is Salvatore Sciacchitano, Italy, who was re-elected in October 2022 for a second three-year term beginning 1 January 2023.

The Council submits annual reports to the Assembly, carries out the directions of the Assembly and discharges the duties and obligations laid on it by the Convention. One of its major duties is to adopt SARPs and amend existing Annexes as necessary. The Council may investigate and act as an arbiter between Member States on matters concerning aviation and the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

Environmental protection and aviation security SARPs are considered and recommended by the ICAO Council's technical Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) and Aviation Security Committee, respectively. All other SARPs, along with Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS), are developed and recommended by the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) which is composed of 19 independent technical experts appointed by the Council to act in the interest of the entire international civil aviation community.

More governance information is on the website under 'About ICAO'.

Meetings

The Assembly meets at least every three years. The 42nd session is scheduled to take place in September/October 2025 in Montréal, Canada.

Membership

The ICAO has 193 members. The three-year Council terms listed below began at the 2022 Assembly session. Members that have not served on the Council are not listed.

Council members (36)

	Previous	Current
Algeria	1980–86 1998–2004 16–19	
Angola	1995–98	
Argentina	1947–2022	2022–25
Australia	1947–2022	2022–25
Austria	2004–07	2022–25
Belgium	1947–59 62–74 83–86 92–95 2010–13	
Bolivia	1995–98 2013–16	2022–25
Botswana	1998–2001	
Brazil	1947–2022	2022–25
Burkina Faso	2010–16	
Cabo Verde	2016–19	
Cameroon	1980–83 1992–2016	
Canada	1947–2022	2022–25
Chile	1947–50 89–92 2002–07 13–16	2022–25
China	1974–2022	2022–25

Colombia	1962–86 1992–2001 04–07 10–13 16–22	
Congo	1962–73 2016–19	
Costa Rica	1965–68 74–77 2001–04 19–22	
Côte d'Ivoire	2019–22	
Cuba	1986–89 1998–2004 10–13 16–19	
Czechia	1947–48 65–95 2001–04	
Denmark	1950–53 59–62 68–71 80–83 95–98 2010–13	
Dominican Republic	2007–10 13–16 19–22	
Ecuador	1992–95 2007–10 16–19	
Egypt	1947–2022	2022–25
El Salvador	1980–83 95–98 2007–10	2022–25
Equatorial Guinea	2019–22	2022–25
Eswatini	2010–13	
Ethiopia	2001–07	2022–25
Finland	1977–80 89–92 2004–07 19–22	
France	1948–2022	2022–25
Germany	1959–2022	2022–25
Ghana	1986–92 2004–10	2022–25
Greece	2019–22	
Guatemala	1959–62 68–71 83–86 2010–13	
Honduras	1977–80 89–92 2004–07	
Hungary	2004–07	
Iceland	1992–2001 07–10	2022–25
India	1947–2022	2022–25
Indonesia	1968–2001	
Iraq	1980–92	
Ireland	1947–59 2001–04 16–19	
Italy	1950–2022	2022–25
Jamaica	1977–86	2022–25
Japan	1956–2022	2022–25
Kenya	1965–68 74–77 83–89 1992–2001 13–19	
Lebanon	1953–86 1992–2007	
Libya	2013–16	
Madagascar	1974–86 89–92	
Malaysia	2007–10 13–22	2022–25
Mauritania		2022–25
Mauritius	2001–04	
Mexico	1962–2022	2022–25
Morocco	1947–59 74–80 92–98 2010–13	
Mozambique	2004–07	
Namibia	2007–10	
Netherlands	1947–71 73–74 80–83 89–92 1998–2001 19–22	
Nicaragua	1962–65 71–74 92–95 2013–16	
Nigeria	1962–2022	2022–25
Norway	1953–56 62–65 71–74 83–86 1998–2001 13–16	
Pakistan	1973–2007	
Panama	1986–2001 16–19	
Paraguay	2001–04 10–13 19–22	
Peru	1947–49 50 86–89 2004–07 10–13 19–22	
Philippines	1950–51 53–55 59–68	
Poland	2013–16	
Portugal	1947–62 2013–16	
Qatar		2022–25
ROK	2001–22	2022–25
Romania	1995–98 2005–10	2022–25

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Russian Federation	1971–2022	
Saint Lucia	2004–07	
Saudi Arabia	1986–2022	2022–25
Senegal	1968–2004	
Singapore	2003–22	2022–25
Slovakia	1998–2001	
Slovenia	2010–13	
South Africa	1950–65 2003–22	2022–25
Spain	1951–2022	2022–25
Sudan	2019–22	
Sweden	1947–50 56–59 65–68 74–77 86–89 2001–04 16–19	
Switzerland	1986–89 95–98 2002–10	
Trinidad and Tobago	1973–77 89–98	
Tunisia	1962–74 86–92 2004–10 19–22	
Türkiye	1947–48 2016–19	
Uganda	1971–74 80–83 2007–13	
UAE	2007–22	2022–25
UK	1947–2022	2022–25
UR of Tanzania	1968–71 77–80 83–95 2013–19	
USA	1947–2022	2022–25
Uruguay	1998–2001 07–10 16–19	
Venezuela	1980–92 95–98 2001–04 07–10 13–16	2022–25
Zambia	2019–22	
Zimbabwe		2022–25

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/universalpostalunion

Website: www.upu.int/en.html
Director-General: Masahiko Metoki, Japan (elected by the UPU Congress in 2021, took office January 2022 for a four-year term)*

Purpose

Created in 1874, the UPU is an intergovernmental organization and the primary forum for cooperation between governments, postal entities and other stakeholders in the worldwide postal sector. In addition to maintaining a universal network, the UPU establishes the rules for international mail exchanges among its 192 members and makes recommendations to stimulate mail volume growth and to improve the quality of service for customers.

Every four years, UPU member countries adopt a global strategy for the postal sector. The most recent is the Abidjan Postal Strategy, which was adopted in 2021 during the 27th Universal Postal Congress. The Abidjan Strategy is structured around three main strategic pillars: being the main forum, the provider of innovative and affordable technical solutions, and the prime information and knowledge centre of the postal sector. The Strategy is aligned with Postal Vision 2030, the UPU's advocacy message for the postal sector, designed to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Dubai Postal Strategy 2026–29 was due to be adopted in September 2025 at the 28th Universal Postal Congress.

As a specialized agency of the UN since 1948, the UPU collaborates with many UN programmes and agencies to promote the role of the postal sector in areas such as development and technical cooperation, trade facilitation, financial inclusion, security, e-commerce, disaster-risk reduction and climate change.

World Post Day is celebrated annually on 9 October.

Structure

The Universal Postal Congress is the four-yearly conference at which Acts of the Union, including the Constitution, are revised and members of the Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC) are elected.

The CA supervises the UPU's work between congresses. Forty member countries are elected at the Congress on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. They may not hold office for more than two consecutive terms. The 41st member is the Congress host country, which usually becomes the Chair. The Chair for 2022–25 is Côte d'Ivoire.

The POC is responsible for operational, commercial, technical and economic postal matters. Forty-eight member countries are elected at Congress on the basis of equitable geographical distribution. The POC members elect the Chair. The Chair for 2022–25 is France.

In addition, the UPU Consultative Committee (CC), created by the 2004 Bucharest Congress, gives postal stakeholders other than public postal operators and regulators a voice. In 2022, the membership of the Committee changed to include private companies, further strengthening its role as a platform for dialogue between the UPU and the wider postal sector. The CC consists of non-governmental organizations, suppliers of goods and services to the postal sector, academic and knowledge-based institutions and similar organizations that have an interest in supporting the mission and objectives of the Union. Membership applications are approved by the respective UPU member countries.

The International Bureau is the UPU's Permanent Secretariat with headquarters in Berne, Switzerland. It provides logistical and technical support for the UPU's bodies. It also serves as an office of liaison, information and consultation, and promotes technical cooperation among UPU members. More governance information is on the website under 'UPU'.

Meetings

The Congress meets every four years. The 28th Congress was scheduled to take place in Dubai, UAE, from 8 to 19 September 2025.

Extraordinary Congress meetings can also be called outside of the four-year cycle. The first Extraordinary Congress was held in 1900 in Berne, Switzerland, to mark the 25th anniversary of the UPU; the second in 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the sustainability of the postal sector; the third in 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the remuneration rates of small packets; and the fourth in 2023 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to discuss the UPU's expanded collaboration with wider postal sector players.

The CA and POC usually meet twice a year at the UPU headquarters in Switzerland, and the CC meets at least once a year. Since 2020, all CA and POC meetings are held in a hybrid format.

Membership

Any UN Member State may become a member of the UPU. Countries that are not UN members may become a UPU member, provided that the request is approved by at least two-thirds of the UPU member countries. As at 1 July 2025, the UPU had 192 members – all UN members except Andorra, Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau, plus non-UN members Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten (formerly Netherlands Antilles); Overseas Territories (UK); and the Vatican.

The following list shows the CA and POC members for the current term. The CC members are listed on the website under 'About UPU' and 'Consultative Committee'.

Postal Operations Council (POC) and Council of Administration (CA) members 2022–25*

Zone 1 – Western Hemisphere

Argentina: CA, POC
Barbados: POC
Brazil: POC
Canada: CA, POC
Chile: CA, POC
Colombia: POC
Cuba: CA
Paraguay: CA
Peru: CA
USA: CA, POC
Uruguay: CA, POC

Zone 2 – Eastern Europe and Northern Asia

Belarus: CA
Bosnia and Herzegovina: CA
Bulgaria: POC
Georgia: CA, POC
Kazakhstan: CA, POC
Poland: POC
Romania: POC
Russian Federation: CA, POC

Zone 3 – Western Europe

Austria: POC
Belgium: CA, POC
France: CA, POC
Germany: CA, POC
Italy: POC
Netherlands: POC
Norway: POC
Spain: CA, POC
Sweden: POC
Switzerland: CA, POC
Türkiye: POC
UK: CA, POC

Zone 4 – Southern Asia, Oceania

Australia: POC
Bangladesh: CA
China: CA, POC
India: CA, POC
Indonesia: POC
Japan: POC
Jordan: CA
Malaysia: CA, POC
Oman: CA
Qatar: CA
ROK: POC
Saudi Arabia: CA, POC
Singapore: POC
Thailand: CA
UAE: CA, POC
Viet Nam: POC

Zone 5 – Africa

Algeria: CA, POC
Burkina Faso: POC
Cameroon: CA, POC
Egypt: CA, POC
Ghana: CA
Kenya: CA, POC
Madagascar: CA, POC
Mali: CA
Morocco: POC
Nigeria: CA, POC
Senegal: POC
Tunisia: CA, POC
UR of Tanzania: CA, POC
Zambia: CA

Note

* Elections for the 2026–29 term were due to be held at the 28th Universal Postal Congress in September 2025.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

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Website: www.itu.int
Secretary-General: Doreen Bogdan-Martin, USA (elected by ITU Member States in September 2022 for a four-year term from 1 January 2023)

Purpose

ITU is the UN's agency for digital technologies, bringing together governments and industry to coordinate global telecommunication networks and services. ITU was founded in 1865 in Paris as the International Telegraph Union. The 1932 Madrid Plenipotentiary Conference decided the current name, which came into use on 1 January 1934.

The Strategic Plan for 2024–27, approved at ITU's 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22), outlines two strategic goals for the organization:

1. Universal Connectivity: Enable and foster universal access to affordable, high-quality and secured telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs)
2. Sustainable Digital Transformation: Foster equitable and inclusive use of telecommunications and ICTs to empower people and societies for sustainable development.

Structure

The Plenipotentiary Conference is ITU's supreme organ. Conferences are composed of ITU's Member State delegations, which determine ITU's underlying policies, direction and activities. The Member States elect Bureau Directors for the Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R), Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) and Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), as well as choosing the 48 Member States on the ITU Council and the 12 members of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB).

The ITU Council comprises 48 Member States elected at the Plenipotentiary Conference with allocations ensuring the equitable distribution of seats among five world regions (details in the list of members). It acts as ITU's governing body between Plenipotentiary Conferences. More information is on the website under 'Membership', then 'How we are governed'.

Meetings

The Plenipotentiary Conference is convened every four years, with PP-22 taking place in Bucharest, Romania, in September–October 2022, and PP-26 scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, in November 2026. The ITU Council meets annually.

ITU's three key sectors meet between Plenipotentiary Conferences at, respectively: the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) and World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) for ITU-R; the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) for ITU-T; and the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) for ITU-D. ITU serves as secretariat for the treaty-making WRC (held in tandem with the RA) and regularly convenes international meetings, conferences and seminars related to promoting and enabling global connectivity. In addition, ITU organizes high-profile non-statutory meetings like the annual AI for Good Global Summit, which promotes artificial intelligence (AI) to accelerate progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Membership

As at 1 July 2025, ITU had 194 Member States (all UN Member States, plus the Vatican) and more than 1000 sector members and associates from industry, international and regional organizations, and academia. Sector members are entitled to participate, with specific rights and obligations, in the work of one or more ITU sectors. Over 240 companies and organizations, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), take part in ITU work as associates in a specified sector, mainly ITU-T.

ITU Member States and Council members are listed on the website. Members that have never served on the Council are not listed below.

Council members (48)

	Previous	Current
The Americas (9 seats)		
Argentina	1947–2022	2023–26
Bahamas	1994–98 2019–22	2023–26
Brazil	1947–2022	2023–26
Canada	1947–2022	2023–26

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Chile 1994–98
Colombia 1982–94
Costa Rica 2010–18
Cuba 1989–2022 2023–26
El Salvador 2019–22 2023–26
Jamaica 1989–94
Mexico 1952–2022 2023–26
Paraguay 2010–22 2023–26
Peru 1982–89
Saint Lucia 1998–2002
Suriname 2006–10
Trinidad and Tobago 1973–82 2006–10
USA 1947–2022 2023–26
Venezuela 1965–2018

Western Europe (8 seats)

Denmark 1994–2002
France 1947–2022 2023–26
Germany 1959–2022 2023–26
Greece 1989–94 2010–22
Hungary 1973–82 2019–22
Ireland 1965–73
Italy 1947–2022 2023–26
Lithuania 2014–18
Norway 2002–06
Portugal 1947–52 1994–2010
Spain 1973–2022 2023–26
Sweden 1973–94 2006–14 2023–26
Switzerland 1947–2022 2023–26
Türkiye 2002–22 2023–26
UK 1947–89 1994–2002 2023–26

Eastern Europe and Northern Asia (5 seats)[1]

Azerbaijan 2014–22 2023–26
Bulgaria 1989–2018 2023–26
Czechia 1993–2014 19–22 2023–26
Poland 1965–82 1994–2006 10–22 2023–26
Romania 1973–89 1994–2022 2023–26
Russian Federation 1947–2022
Ukraine 1994–98 2006–10
Uzbekistan 1947–59

Africa (13 seats)

Algeria 1965–2022 2023–26
Benin 1982–98
Burkina Faso 1989–2022
Cabo Verde 1989–98
Cameroon 1973–2014
Côte d'Ivoire 1998–2002 19–22
DR Congo 1973–82
Egypt 1973–2022 2023–26
Ethiopia 1959–89
Gabon 1998–2002
Ghana 2002–22 2023–26
Kenya 1982–2022 2023–26
Madagascar 1965–73
Mali 1989–2018
Mauritius 2023–26

Morocco	1959–2022	2023–26
Nigeria	1965–98 2002–22	2023–26
Rwanda	2010–22	2023–26
Senegal	1973–2022	2023–26
South Africa	1994–2014 19–22	2023–26
Tunisia	1959–2022	2023–26
Uganda	1965–73 2002–06 14–22	2023–26
UR of Tanzania	1973–2002 06–10 14–18	2023–26
Zambia	1982–89	
Asia and Australasia (13 seats)		
Australia	1959–2022	2023–26
Bahrain		2023–26
Bangladesh	2010–18	
China	1947–2022	2023–26
India	1952–2022	2023–26
Indonesia	1982–98 2002–22	2023–26
Iran	1973–82 2002–06 19–22	
Japan	1959–2022	2023–26
Kuwait	1982–2002 10–22	2023–26
Lebanon	1965–89	
Malaysia	1973–82 1989–2014	2023–26
Pakistan	1982–2010 14–22	
Philippines	1982–2002 06–22	2023–26
ROK	1989–2022	2023–26
Saudi Arabia	1965–2022	2023–26
Thailand	1973–2022	2023–26
UAE	2006–22	2023–26
Viet Nam	1994–2006	

Note

1 The former Czechoslovakia and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia both served on the Council in 1989–92.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

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Secretary-General: Celeste Saulo, Argentina (appointed by the 19th World Meteorological Congress in June 2023 for a four-year term from January 2024)

Purpose

The WMO is the UN's specialized agency on the state and behaviour of the earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources. It is the successor to the International Meteorological Organization, which was established in 1873. The WMO formally came into existence in 1950 and became a UN specialized agency in 1951.

Article 2 of the WMO Convention, which was signed in Washington in 1947 and came into force in 1950, defined the Organization's purposes as being to:

- Facilitate worldwide cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological observations, as well as hydrological and other geophysical observations related to meteorology, and to promote the establishment and maintenance of centres charged with the provision of meteorological and related services

- Promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for rapid exchange of meteorological and related information
- Promote standardization of meteorological and related observations, and ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics
- Further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and other human activities
- Promote activities in operational hydrology and further close cooperation between meteorological and hydrological services
- Encourage research and training in meteorology and, as appropriate, in related fields, and assist in coordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

Structure

The World Meteorological Congress is the WMO's supreme body. It determines general policies, elects the President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Council members, and appoints the Secretary-General. The Executive Council has 37 members, comprising the WMO President and three Vice-Presidents, the six regional association presidents (ex officio members) and 27 directors. All are directors of national meteorological or hydrometeorological services and serve in their individual capacities. When a vacancy occurs among the 27 elected members between Congress sessions, an acting member is designated by the Executive Council.

There are six regional associations: Africa; Asia; South America; North America, Central America and the Caribbean; South-West Pacific; and Europe. Each regional association elects its own president every four years. Following approval of a Constituent Bodies Governance Reform by the 18th World Meteorological Congress in June 2019, WMO's eight technical commissions were replaced by two more coordinated technical commissions: the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM) and the Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM).

The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) advises the Executive Council on strategic and policy matters concerning the Organization submitted to it by the Executive Council. The Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) acts as a two-way interface between the Executive Council and the technical bodies of the Organization: technical commissions, the Research Board and other relevant bodies. More governance information is on the website under 'About WMO', then 'Governance'.

Meetings

The Congress meets once every four years, most recently at the 19th session in May–June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland and in hybrid format. Extraordinary sessions of Congress may be convened by the Executive Council as appropriate. The Executive Council meets annually. As a result of the reform, from 2020, regional associations and technical commissions may have two sessions in the financial period, including one ordinary session at which elections are held.

Membership

The WMO comprises 187 Member States and six territories. Apart from regional association presidents, the Council members serve terms that finish at the end of Congress in the year shown.

Executive Council members (37)*

	Previous	Current
Algeria	1987–91	
Angola	1979–80	
Argentina	1975–2000 03–23	2023–27
Australia	1958–2023	2023–27

Austria	1994–98 2018–22	
Bahamas	2009–13	
Bahrain	2000–08	
Belgium	1963–71	
Belize	2002–03 05–08	
Benin	1997–2001	
Botswana	1995–2003	
Brazil	1974–99 2001–16 18–23	2023–27
British Caribbean Territories	1983–2023	2023–27
Burkina Faso		2023–27
Burundi	1993–97	
Cameroon	1979–81 86–95 2001–03 15–23	2023–27
Canada	1975–2023	2023–27
Chile	1980–82 89 2007 08–11 15–19	
China	1973–23	2023–27
Colombia	1971–83 91–92 95–99 20–23	
Congo	1981–87 1999–2001 11–15	
Cook Islands	2005–10	
Costa Rica	1986–91 2003–19	
Côte d'Ivoire	1986–87 90–95 2014–23	2023–27
Croatia	2009–18	
Cuba	1983–84	
Curaçao and Sint Maarten[1]	1993–95 1997–2005 16–23	2023–27
Czechia	1995–99 2004–07	
Denmark	1999–2003	
Ecuador	1963–71 2000–03 11–15	
Egypt	1955–85 87–91 95–99 2003–06 07–11 17–19	2023–27
Eswatini		2023–27
Ethiopia	1982–90 2003–05 14–23	2023–27
Fiji	1995–2003 11–19	
Finland	1983–90 2007–15	
France	1951–2006 07–23	2023–27
Gambia	1994–95	
Germany	1963–2023	2023–27
Ghana	1979–81 87–91 2003–06	
Greece	1989–94	
Guatemala	1973–77	
Guinea	2002–21	
Guyana	2021–23	2023–27
Honduras	1991–93	
Hungary	1979–81 2000–01 22–23	
Iceland	2018–19	
India	1979–99 2002–23	2023–27
Indonesia	1993–99 2001–02 07–18 19–23	2023–27
Iran	1969–79 1991–2011 19–23	
Iraq	1979–82	
Ireland		2023–27
Israel	1995–2002	
Italy	1983–95 1998–2000 03–15 16–21	2023–27
Jamaica	2019–24	2025–29
Japan	1967–2015 16–19 19–23	2023–27
Jordan	1987–91 2003–06	
Kenya	1971–2013	2023–27
Lesotho	1994–95 2003–07	
Lithuania	2002–05	
Luxembourg	1955–71	

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Malawi 1981–82 91–95
Malaysia 1979–86 95–96 1998–2001 03–05 06–15
Mali 1990–2001 06–07 21–23
Mauritania 2007–11
Mauritius 1975–79 2007–11
Mexico 1979–85 1995–2002 07–09 13–16
Mongolia 1975 1994–2000
Morocco 1983–87 1999–2003 11–16 19–23
Mozambique 2006–07 19–23
Myanmar 1982–84
Namibia 2007–11 18 19–23
Nepal 1983–87
Netherlands 1991–95
New Caledonia 1962–71
New Zealand 1986–88 2003–07 10–11
Niger 1985–91 2012–14
Nigeria 1973–83 91–93 1995–2002 07–17 18–23 2023–27
Norway 1979–83 90–94 2022–23 2023–27
Oman 2024–25
Pakistan 1971–91 2003–07
Panama 1987–91 2008–09 24–25
Paraguay 1959–63 91–99 2003–05 11–17 2025–28
Peru 1983–87 2007–11 18–21 23
Philippines 1974–95 97–99
Poland 1971–75 1991–2003 07–16
Portugal 1984–87 2001–02
Qatar 1986–95 2012–17
ROK 2000 07–17 18–23 2023–27
Romania 2021–23 2023–26
Russian Federation 1951–2003 04–23
Rwanda 1991–92 98–99 2006–07
Saudi Arabia 1983–2002 07–19 2025–29
Senegal 1975–85 95–97 2001–04 11–12
Singapore 1967–74 89–92 2002–06 15–23 2023–27
Solomon Islands 2024–25
South Africa 1995–2005 07–17 18–19 2024–25 2023–27
Spain 1983–96 1999–2000 03–23
Sudan 1959–63 91–95 2010–12
Sweden 1955–79
Switzerland 1971–75 2003–09 19–23 2023–27
Syrian AR 1979–84 2001–03
Togo 1983–90
Tonga 2014 18–22 22–24 2025
Trinidad and Tobago 1994–97
Tunisia 1975–79 91–95
Türkiye 2015–18 19–23 2023–27
UAE 2017–21 2023–27
Uganda 1971–79
UK 1979–2023 2023–27
UR of Tanzania 1975–79 1995–2007 12–23
USA 1951–2023 2023–27
Uruguay 1982–91 1999–2000 03–05 19–20 23–25
Uzbekistan 2008–12
Venezuela 1971–79 86–88 94–95 1999–2003 06–10
Viet Nam 2023
Zambia 1983–87 2011–15
Zimbabwe 1987–91 2014–18

President, Vice-Presidents and Regional Association Presidents

President

Abdulla Ahmed Al Mandous, UAE

First Vice-President

Daouda Konate, Côte d'Ivoire

Second Vice-President

Eoin Moran, Ireland

Third Vice-President

Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, India

Presidents of regional associations

Region I, Africa: Fetene Teshome, Ethiopia

Region II, Asia: Ayman Salem Ghulam, Saudi Arabia

Region III, South America: Eduardo José Mingo Vega, Paraguay

Region IV, North America, Central America and the Caribbean: Evan G Thompson, Jamaica

Region V, South-West Pacific: Laitia Fifita, Tonga

Region VI, Europe: Elena Mateescu, Romania

Members that have not served on the Executive Council*

Afghanistan
Albania
Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Cabo Verde
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Cyprus
DPRK
DR Congo
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia
Eswatini
French Polynesia
Gabon
Georgia
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Hong Kong, China
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Latvia
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Macau, China
Madagascar
Maldives
Malta
Micronesia
Montenegro
Nauru
Nicaragua
Niue
North Macedonia
Papua New Guinea
Republic of Moldova
Saint Lucia
Samoa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
Somalia
South Sudan
Sri Lanka
Suriname
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Ukraine
Vanuatu
Viet Nam
Yemen

Notes

* Current terms are as at July 2025. Further details can be found on the WMO Executive Council website. The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Executive Council from 1963 to 1991.

1 Group membership of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba was officially dissolved on 10 October 2010 and has been replaced by the group membership of Curaçao and Sint Maarten as a Member territory.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

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Website: www.imo.org
Secretary-General: Arsenio Dominguez, Panama (elected by the IMO Council in July 2023 for a four-year term from 1 January 2024)

Purpose

The IMO is the UN specialized agency responsible for the safety of life at sea, maritime security and the protection of the marine environment through prevention of pollution caused by ships. It facilitates cooperation among governments to achieve the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and security, and efficiency in navigation. It deals with legal matters connected with international shipping, including liability and compensation regimes, as well as with facilitation of international maritime traffic. It is also responsible for providing technical assistance in maritime matters to developing countries.

The Organization was created by the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, which concluded at Geneva in 1948 and came into force in 1958. The first Assembly was convened in London in 1959. Prior to 22 May 1982 (the date of entry into force of the 1975 amendments to the Convention), the Organization's name was the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

The IMO convenes international conferences on shipping matters and for drafting international conventions or agreements on this subject. The current emphasis is on ensuring relevant conventions and treaties are properly implemented by the countries that have accepted them. The IMO has adopted a mandatory Member State audit scheme.

The IMO also acts as a secretariat in respect of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, adopted in London in 1972, which is being superseded by its 1996 Protocol that regulates the disposal into the sea of waste materials generated on land. Consultative meetings are normally held once a year.

The IMO has implemented procedural changes since its inception to ensure that treaty changes can be introduced more quickly. One of the most successful of these has been the process known as 'tacit acceptance', which has been included in most technical conventions adopted by the IMO since the early 1970s. Rather than requiring 'explicit acceptance' to adopt amendments to a treaty, the tacit acceptance procedure means that amendments enter into force on a set date unless they are specifically rejected by a specific number of countries.

Structure

The Assembly is the IMO's highest governing body and consists of all Member States. It is responsible for approving the IMO's work programme, the budget and determining the financial arrangements. It also elects the Council.

Between Assembly sessions, the Council, composed of 40 Member States, performs all the functions of the Organization, except for making recommendations to Member States on the adoption of regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety, the prevention and control of marine pollution, which is reserved to the Assembly under Article 15(j) of the Convention. The Council is responsible for appointing the IMO Secretary-General, subject to the Assembly's approval.

There are five main committees: Maritime Safety, Marine Environment Protection, Legal, Technical Cooperation and Facilitation. All IMO committees are open to all member

governments on an equal basis. More governance information is on the website under 'About IMO' and 'Structure'.

Meetings

The Assembly meets once every two years in regular session, but may also meet in extraordinary session if necessary. Its 34th regular session is scheduled to be held from 24 November to 3 December 2025. The meetings programme is on the website.

Membership

The IMO has 176 members and three associate members. Council members are elected for a biennium, with their two-year terms beginning immediately after each regular session of the Assembly. Council members elected at the most recent Assembly in December 2023, whose term ends in November 2025, are referenced below as serving for the 2024–25 biennium.

IMO Council members are elected from three categories, rather than by region. Category A Council members are the 10 states with the largest interest in providing international shipping services; Category B Council members are the 10 other states with the largest interest in international seaborne trade; Category C Council members are the 20 states not elected under either category A or B that have special interests in maritime transport or navigation and whose election will ensure the representation of all major areas of the world. The categories for current terms are noted in brackets in the following list.

This Handbook outlines the procedures in force at the time of printing. In December 2021, the IMO Assembly adopted Amendments to the IMO Convention to expand the size of the IMO Council from 40 members to 52 members, as well as to extend the standard term of a Council member from two years to four years. The amendments will enter into force when they have been accepted by two-thirds of the IMO membership, or 117 states.

Council members (2024–25 biennium)

	Previous[1]	Current
African states		
Algeria	1972–79 84–99 2002–07	
Egypt (C)	1978–2013 16–23	2024–25
Gabon	1984–87	
Ghana	1970–73 84–87 96–97 2002–05	
Kenya (C)	1978–79 2002–03 06–23	2024–25
Liberia (A)	1978–91 98–99 2012–17	2024–25
Madagascar	1964–71	
Morocco (C)	1980–81 84–97 2000–01 12–23	2024–25
Nigeria	1974–85 88–95 2004–05 08–11	
South Africa	1998–2021	
Tunisia	1998–99	
Asia–Pacific states		
Bangladesh (C)	1982–87 2002–17	2024–25
China (A)	1976–81 1984–2023	2024–25
Cyprus (C)	1988–2023	2024–25
India (B)	1960–2023	2024–25
Indonesia (C)	1974–79 1984–2023	2024–25
Iran	1992–97	
Japan (A)	1960–2023	2024–25
Kuwait	1978–91 94–95 2020–21	
Lebanon	1982–91 2002–03	

continued next page

Malaysia (C)	2006–23	2024–25
Pakistan	1978–81 88–93	
Philippines (C)	1990–93 1998–2023	2024–25
Qatar (C)	2022–23	2024–25
ROK (A)	1992–2023	2024–25
Saudi Arabia (C)	1982–97 2004–11 22–23	2024–25
Singapore (C)	1994–2023	2024–25
Thailand	2006–23	
UAE (B)	2018–23	2024–25
Vanuatu	2022–23	

Eastern European states

Bulgaria	1984–85	
Poland	1968–77 80–83 86–91 94–99 2002–05	
Romania	1978–79	
Russian Federation	1960–2023	

Latin American and Caribbean states

Argentina	1960–63 76–79 1984–2017 20–21	
Bahamas (C)	1992–95 2000–23	2024–25
Barbados	1990–91	
Brazil (B)	1968–2023	2024–25
Chile (C)	1984–85 2002–23	2024–25
Cuba	1980–81 84–85	
Honduras	2002–03	
Jamaica (C)	1980–83 2008–15 18–21	2024–25
Mexico (C)	1978–79 82–83 86–87 1990–2021	2024–25
Panama (A)	1980–83 86–89 92–93 1996–2021	2024–25
Peru (C)	1978–81 88–89 2014–21	2024–25
Trinidad and Tobago	1984–89	
Venezuela	2002–05	

Western European and Other states

Australia (B)	1960–75 1986–2023	2024–25
Belgium	1960–67 70–75 2006–07 10–23	
Canada (B)	1960–2023	2024–25
Denmark (C)	2002–23	2024–25
Finland (C)	1998–2001	2024–25
France (B)	1960–2023	2024–25
Germany (B)	1960–2023	2024–25
Greece (A)	1960–77 1980–2023	2024–25
Italy (A)	1960–73 76–77 1982–2023	2024–25
Malta (C)	1978–79 2000–23	2024–25
Netherlands (B)	1960–73 84–87 1992–2023	2024–25
New Zealand	2008–09	
Norway (A)	1960–2023	2024–25
Portugal	2004–07	
Spain (B)	1974–75 1980–2023	2024–25
Sweden (B)	1960–69 1988–2019 22–23	2024–25
Türkiye (C)	2000–23	2024–25
UK (A)	1960–2023	2024–25
USA (A)	1960–2023	2024–25

Members that have not served on the Council

African states

Angola	Botswana	Cameroon
Benin	Cabo Verde	Comoros

Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
DR Congo
Djibouti
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Libya
Malawi
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sudan
Togo
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia–Pacific states

Bahrain
Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia
DPRK
Fiji
Iraq
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kiribati
Kyrgyzstan
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nauru
Nepal
Oman
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Syrian AR
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Viet Nam
Yemen

Eastern European states

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Czechia
Estonia
Georgia
Hungary
Latvia
Lithuania
Montenegro
North Macedonia
Republic of Moldova
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Ukraine

Latin American and Caribbean states

Antigua and Barbuda
Belize
Bolivia
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Nicaragua
Paraguay
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Uruguay

Western European and Other states

Austria
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Luxembourg
Monaco
San Marino
Switzerland

Members outside the UN regional groupings

Cook Islands

Associate members

Faroe Islands
Hong Kong, China
Macau, China

Note

1 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Executive Council from 1963 to 1991.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

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X: @WIPO
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/wipo
YouTube: www.youtube.com/wipo
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/wipo/collections/

Website: www.wipo.int
Director-General: Daren Tang, Singapore (appointed by the WIPO General Assembly, upon nomination by the Coordination Committee, for a six-year term from October 2020 to September 2026)

Purpose

WIPO is the UN's specialized agency for intellectual property (IP) (copyrights, patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications). It helps governments, businesses and society realize the benefits of IP. WIPO provides:

- A policy forum to shape balanced international IP rules for a changing world; global services to protect IP across borders and to resolve disputes
- Technical infrastructure to connect IP systems and share knowledge
- Cooperation and capacity-building programmes to enable all countries to use IP for economic, social and cultural development
- A world reference source for IP information.

WIPO was established by the 1967 Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO Convention), which was signed on 14 July 1967 in Stockholm, entered into force in April 1970 and was amended in 1979. As at 1 July 2025, the WIPO Convention has 194 contracting states. The Organization became a UN specialized agency in 1974.

WIPO administers 28 treaties that deal with different legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property, notably the 1883 Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property that has 181 contracting parties; the 1886 Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works that has 181 contracting parties; and the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) that has 158 contracting states.

Structure

The General Assembly is the Organization's supreme decision-making body (WIPO Convention Article 6.1). All states that are both members of WIPO and any of the Unions are members of the WIPO General Assembly. The Conference comprises all 194 WIPO Member States, whether or not they are members of any of the Unions (WIPO Convention Article 7a).

The Coordination Committee comprises 83 members, made up of the combined Paris and Berne Unions' executive committees. It is both an advisory organ on questions of common interest to one or more of the Organization's Unions and the executive organ of the Organization (WIPO Convention Article 8). Treaties administered by WIPO have their own governing bodies. More governance information is on the website under 'Partner & Collaborate', then 'Negotiating & Decision-Making'.

The International Bureau (Secretariat) has over 1050 staff from 122 countries. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, WIPO also has a coordination office in New York and external offices in Abuja, Algiers, Beijing, Moscow, Rio de Janeiro, Singapore and Tokyo.

Meetings

The General Assembly meets in ordinary session once every two years and in extraordinary session every other year. Most recently, its 66th Series of Meetings took place in Geneva from

8 to 17 July 2025. The Conference meets at the same time as the General Assembly. The Coordination Committee holds an ordinary session once a year.

Membership

As at 1 July 2025, WIPO had 194 Member States and 396 accredited observers. See the website under 'About WIPO' for membership lists.

To become a member of WIPO, a state must deposit an instrument of ratification or accession to the WIPO Convention with the Director-General. The Convention provides that membership is open to any state that is: a member of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property or the Berne Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works; or a member of the UN or its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice; or invited by the WIPO General Assembly to become a member.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

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Fax: +39 06 5043 463
Email: ifad@ifad.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IFAD
X: @IFAD

Website: www.ifad.org
President: Alvaro Lario, Spain (appointed by the Governing Council in July 2022 for a four-year term beginning 1 October 2022)

Purpose

IFAD is an international financial institution and UN specialized agency that provides low-interest loans and grants to developing countries to finance agricultural and rural development programmes and projects. IFAD invests in rural people, empowering them to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience. It was established in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

The majority of IFAD's resources are provided to low-income countries on highly concessional terms under which the loans are repayable over 40 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years, with a 0.75 percent service charge. In 2007, IFAD's Executive Board approved the Fund's debt sustainability framework (DSF), replacing loans with grants for poor countries unable to sustain debt. More information on financial products is available on the website under 'Who We Are', then 'About IFAD' and 'Finance'.

Since starting operations, IFAD has invested over US$25 billion in grants and low-interest loans, supporting more than 1000 programmes and projects. Co-financing worth over US$40 billion has been provided by governments, project participants, multilateral and bilateral donors and other partners. By 2023, IFAD-supported projects had reached almost 100 million people.

IFAD played an active role in the process to frame the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advocating for the interests of smallholders and other rural people who make up the majority of the world's poor population. IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016–2025 articulates the Fund's contribution to the 2030 Agenda. IFAD advocates for a holistic, people-centred approach, underlining the principle that development efforts must support social change, empower the most disadvantaged and marginalized people, and create an enabling environment for smallholders and other rural people. Food security, climate and biodiversity, women and young people are key areas of focus for IFAD's work. IFAD launched its 13th Replenishment consultations in February 2023. By mid-2025, Member States had pledged over US$1.4 billion – a record level of financing – in support of the Fund's 2025–27 programme of work.

Structure

The Governing Council is IFAD's highest decision-making authority. Each Member State is represented on the Council by a governor and/or alternate governor and any other designated advisers. The Executive Board is responsible for overseeing IFAD's general operations and approving the Fund's programme of work. It consists of 18 members elected by the Council and 18 alternate members. The President chairs the Executive Board, is IFAD's legal representative, the head of staff and conducts the organization's business under the direction of the Governing Council and Executive Board. More governance information is available on the website.

Meetings

The Governing Council meets once a year, usually in February. The Executive Board meets three times a year, usually in April, September and December.

Membership

IFAD membership is open to any state that is a member of the UN or its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Countries may join the Fund after approval by IFAD's Governing Council and accession to the Agreement Establishing IFAD. As at 1 July 2025 there were 180 Member States. Members are classified as follows: List A (primarily Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) members); List B (primarily Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members); and List C (primarily developing countries). List C is further divided into sub-list C1 (countries in Africa); sub-list C2 (countries in Europe, Asia and the Pacific); and sub-list C3 (countries in Latin America and the Caribbean).

New members decide which list they wish to be placed on after consultation with the members of that list. A Member State may decide to withdraw from one list to be placed on another, with the approval of members on that list. Prior to 1997, the lists were called categories (IFAD res. 86/XVIII). More information is on the website under 'Who We Are', then 'Governance' and 'Membership'.

The Executive Board has eight members and eight alternates from List A; four members and four alternates from List B; and six members and six alternates from List C – two each in the three regional sub-lists. Board terms are for three years, beginning and ending at the Governing Council session (usually February). Some members and alternates do not serve the full three-year term.

Executive Board members/alternates 2024–27 (as at July 2025)

List A

Canada/Finland
France/Belgium
Germany/Switzerland
Italy/Austria
Japan/Denmark
Norway/Sweden
UK/Netherlands
USA/Spain

List B

Kuwait/UAE
Nigeria/Qatar
Saudi Arabia/Indonesia
Venezuela/Algeria

List C

Sub-list C1 Africa
Cameroon/Eritrea
Angola/Egypt

Sub-list C2 Europe, Asia and the Pacific
China/Pakistan
India/ROK

Sub-list C3 Latin America and the Caribbean
Brazil/Argentina
Mexico/Peru

UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Vienna International Centre
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Email: unido@unido.org

Website: www.unido.org

Director General: Gerd Müller (appointed by the Organization's General Conference in November 2021; recommended by the UNIDO Industrial Development Board in June 2025 for reappointment by the General Conference in November 2025 for a second four-year term beginning 24 November 2025)

Purpose

UNIDO is the UN specialized agency mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development and international industrial cooperation. Through this, it aims to create shared prosperity from industry, safeguard the environment and advance economic competitiveness.

The UNIDO constitution calls on the Organization to:

- Assist developing countries in the formulation of development, institutional, scientific and technological policies and programmes in the field of industrial development
- Analyse trends, disseminate information and coordinate activities in industrial development
- Act as a forum for consultations and negotiations directed towards the industrialization of developing countries
- Provide technical cooperation to developing countries for the implementation of their development plans for sustainable industrialization in their public and private sectors.

UNIDO takes part in various UN system inter-agency coordination mechanisms, partners with relevant UN organizations and cooperates with the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the Aid for Trade framework. It is an executing agency under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), a core agency of the UN Global Compact, and an implementing agency for several multilateral environmental agreements, including the Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNIDO also has direct collaboration agreements with civil society organizations, academia, government-owned institutions and the private sector.

The General Assembly created UNIDO in 1966 as a special organ of the UN (GA res. 2152 (XXI)), and the Organization was formally established in January 1967. It became a UN specialized agency in 1985. UNIDO's origins can be traced back to a series of studies on the rapid industrialization of developing countries carried out by the UN Secretariat in the early 1950s at the request of ECOSOC. The Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development, adopted in 2013 (GC.15/Res.1), is UNIDO's long-term vision to eradicate poverty through inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID). The Abu Dhabi Declaration, adopted in 2019, draws attention to the important role of the private sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlights the emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Structure

The General Conference is UNIDO's highest policy-making organ and consists of all UNIDO Member States. The Conference appoints the Director General for terms of four years. It determines the guiding principles and policies of the Organization, and approves the budget and work programme. The General Conference also elects the members of the Industrial Development Board (IDB) and the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC). The IDB acts as a preparatory body for the Conference. It consists of 53 Member States elected for four-year terms on a rotational basis. The PBC assists the Board in the preparation and examination of the work programme and financial matters. It consists of 27 Member States elected for two-year terms. More information about UNIDO's governance can be found on the website under 'Resources' and 'Policymaking Organs'.

Meetings

The General Conference meets every two years. The 21st session is scheduled to take place from 23 to 27 November 2025 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The IDB and PBC each meet once a year.

Membership

All UN Member States or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) may become members of UNIDO by becoming parties to its Constitution. Other states may become members after their membership has been recommended by the IDB and approved by the General Conference, by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting (UNIDO Constitution, Article 3).

As at 1 July 2025, UNIDO had 173 members. In the list below, members of the IDB are identified by notes 1 and 2, and members of the PBC by note 3.

Members (173)*

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria[1, 3]
Angola[1]
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina[1]
Armenia
Austria[1, 3]
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh[1]
Barbados
Belarus[2]
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil[2, 3]
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso[2]
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China[2, 3]
Colombia[2]
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica[1]
Côte d'Ivoire[2]
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus[2]
Czechia
DPRK
DR Congo
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt[2, 3]
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland[2, 3]
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany[2, 3]
Ghana[1, 3]
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary[1, 3]
India[1, 3]
Indonesia[3]
Iran[3]
Iraq
Ireland[1]
Israel
Italy[2, 3]
Jamaica
Japan[2, 3]
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya[2, 3]
Kiribati
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan[1]
Lao PDR
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Luxembourg[1]
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta[1, 3]
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico[2, 3]
Micronesia
Monaco
Mongolia[1]
Montenegro
Morocco[1, 3]
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia[2]
Nepal
Netherlands[2]
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria[1]
North Macedonia
Norway[2]
Oman
Pakistan[1, 3]
Palau
Panama[1]

Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru[1, 3]
Philippines[2]
Poland[2, 3]
Qatar[2]
ROK[2]
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation[1, 3]
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
São Tomé and Príncipe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovenia[2]
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa[1, 3]
South Sudan
Spain[1, 3]
Sri Lanka
State of Palestine
Sudan
Suriname
Sweden[2]
Switzerland[1, 3]
Syrian AR
Tajikistan
Thailand[1]
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia[1]
Türkiye[1, 3]
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukraine
UAE[2]
UR of Tanzania
Uruguay[2, 3]
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela[1]
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Notes

* As at 1 July 2025, there was one vacancy on the IDB, for the term expiring at the close of the 22nd session of the General Conference in 2027.

1 Members of the IDB, elected to hold office until the end of the 21st regular session of the General Conference in 2025.

2 Members of the IDB, elected to hold office until the end of the 22nd regular session of the General Conference in 2027.

3 Members of the PBC, elected to hold office until the end of the 21st regular session of the General Conference in 2025.

World Tourism Organization (UN Tourism)

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Instagram: @UNWTO
LinkedIn: @UN Tourism
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@UNTourism
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/unwto

Website: www.unwto.org
Secretary-General: Zurab Pololikashvili, Georgia (elected by the World Tourism Organization General Assembly in October 2017, took up the position in January 2018; re-elected in December 2021 for a second four-year term from January 2022)

Purpose

UN Tourism is the UN specialized agency fostering responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism. As the leading international organization in the field of tourism, it promotes tourism as a driver of economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability and offers leadership and support to the sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies. With its current strategic focuses on innovation, education, digital transformation and investments, UN Tourism aims to maximize the potential of the sector in terms of job creation, the empowerment of women and youth, and sustainable development.

As part of its mission, UN Tourism generates market knowledge, promotes competitive and sustainable tourism policies and instruments, fosters tourism education and innovation, and works to make tourism an effective tool for development through technical assistance projects in over 100 countries around the world.

UN Tourism encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts, and is committed to promoting tourism as an instrument in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), geared towards reducing poverty and fostering sustainable development worldwide.

UN Tourism was established as the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in 1975 on the entry into force of statutes adopted in 1970. It became a UN specialized agency in 2003 (GA res. 58/232 (2003)), and formally adopted the change in acronym to UNWTO in 2005. In January 2024, it rebranded as UN Tourism. GA res. 32/156 (1977) sets out the relationship between the UN and UN Tourism.

Structure

The World Tourism Organization General Assembly is the entity's supreme body. It is composed of full and associate members, while affiliate members participate as observers. The Assembly approves the Organization's budget and work programme. The World Committee on Tourism Ethics is a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.

The Executive Council is UN Tourism's governing body. It consists of 35 full members elected by the Assembly with a view to achieving fair and equitable geographical distribution. As host country, Spain sits on the Council as a permanent voting member. One representative of the associate members and one of affiliate members also participate, though neither has voting rights. The term of office for elected Council members is four years. Elections for half the members are held every two years. The Council elects one chair and two vice-chairs from among its members.

There are six regional commissions, established by the Assembly, covering Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, East Asia and the Pacific, and South Asia. Specialized committees of UN Tourism members advise on management and programme content. Headquartered in Madrid, UN Tourism has a liaison office in Geneva and regional offices in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Nara, Japan.

Meetings

The General Assembly meets every two years. Its 26th session is scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 7 to 11 November 2025. The Executive Council meets at least twice a year, and the Regional Commissions normally meet annually. The 123rd session of the Executive Council took place in San Ildefonso, Spain, in May 2025.

Membership

UN Tourism has three categories of members (Statutes, Articles 4–7):

- Full members: 160 Member States*
- Associate members: six territories or groups of territories not responsible for their external relations but whose membership is approved by the state assuming responsibility for their external relations
- Affiliate members: over 500 representatives of the private sector, educational institutions, tourism associations and local tourism authorities.

Permanent observer status, with the right to speak but without the right to vote, was given to the Holy See at the General Assembly in 1979. The State of Palestine was granted special observer status in 1999.

Members (160)*

Current Executive Council terms are shown in brackets.

Full members (160)

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina (2021–25)
Armenia (2021–25)
Austria
Azerbaijan (2021–25)
Bahamas
Bahrain (2021–25)
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil (2021–25; Chair for 2025)
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria (2023–27)
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde (2021–25)
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China (2023–27)
Colombia (2023–27)
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia (2021–25)
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia (2023–27; Second Vice-Chair for 2025)
DPRK
DR Congo (2023–27)
Djibouti
Dominican Republic (2021–25)
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Fiji
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia (2021–25)
Germany
Ghana (2023–27)
Greece (2021–25)
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India (2021–25)
Indonesia (2023–27)
Iran (2021–25)
Iraq
Israel
Italy (2023–27)
Jamaica (2023–27)
Japan (2023–27)
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania (2023–27)
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco (2021–25)
Mozambique (2021–25)
Myanmar
Namibia (2023–27)
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria (2023–27)
North Macedonia
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
ROK (2023–27)
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Rwanda (2023–27)
Samoa
San Marino
São Tomé and Príncipe
Saudi Arabia (2023–27)
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
Somalia
South Africa (2021–25; First Vice-Chair for 2025)
Spain (Permanent Executive Council member)
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Syrian AR
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
UAE (2021–25)

continued next page

UR of Tanzania (2023–27)
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia (2021–25)
Zimbabwe

Associate members

Aruba
Flanders
Hong Kong, China
Macau, China
Madeira, Portugal
Puerto Rico

Permanent Observer

Holy See

Special Observer

State of Palestine

Note

* In April 2022, at the first extraordinary session of the World Tourism Organization General Assembly, members voted to suspend the Russian Federation from the Organization, effective immediately. The Russian Federation announced its withdrawal from the Organization on the same day.

International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

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00153 Rome
Italy

Telephone: +39 06 58 5531
Email: iccrom@iccrom.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/iccrom
X: @ICCROM

Website: www.iccrom.org

Director-General: Aruna Francesca Maria Gujral, Italy (appointed by the ICCROM General Assembly in November 2023 for a four-year term from 1 January 2024)

Purpose

ICCROM is an intergovernmental organization with the mandate of promoting the conservation of all types of cultural heritage, both movable and immovable, through its five main areas of activity: training, research, information, cooperation and advocacy. It was founded by the ninth UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference, in New Delhi in 1956, and established in Rome in 1959.

Structure

The General Assembly, made up of delegates from ICCROM's Member States, determines the Centre's general policies, including approving its biennial programme of activities and budget, electing Council members and appointing the Director-General. Other functions include approving reports on Council and ICCROM Secretariat activities, determining Member State contributions, adopting ICCROM's financial regulations and approving changes to the Statutes.

The Council comprises 25 members elected by the ICCROM General Assembly. Members are experts in the field of conservation and restoration of cultural property, taking into consideration equitable geographical, cultural and specialist field representation. It also has three ex officio members with the right to vote: the Italian Government, Istituto Centrale per il Restauro (ICR) and UNESCO.

Ex officio members without the right to vote are the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The UAE and the International Institute for Conservation of Historic Works (IIC) are permanent observers. More governance information is on the website under 'About'.

Meetings

Meetings of the General Assembly take place every two years in Rome, with the Council meeting three times per biennium. The 34th session of the General Assembly is scheduled to be held from 10 to 12 December 2025.

Membership

UNESCO Member States may join ICCROM by depositing a formal declaration of accession with the UNESCO Director-General. Non-UNESCO states may apply for membership directly to the ICCROM Secretariat (ICCROM Statutes, Article 2). As at 1 July 2025, there were 138 Member States. Council members and their terms are on the website under 'About'.

Members (138)

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo[1]
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechia
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao PDR
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libya
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua[1]
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
ROK
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian AR
Tajikistan
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye

continued next page

Ukraine
UAE
UK
UR of Tanzania
USA
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela[1]
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta is a permanent observer to ICCROM.

Note

1 Currently suspended, under Article 9 of the ICCROM Statutes, for having omitted to pay contributions for six consecutive calendar years.

WORLD BANK GROUP

Headquarters
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 473 1000
Facebook: www.facebook.com/worldbank
X: @worldbank

Website: www.worldbank.org
President: Ajay Banga, USA (since 2 June 2023)

Structure

The World Bank Group is an independent specialized agency of the UN comprising the:

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Normally, the term World Bank Group refers to the first four agencies, while the term 'World Bank' refers specifically to the first two of these institutions, the IBRD and IDA.

The World Bank Group vision is to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet.

The organizations that make up the World Bank Group are owned by the governments of member nations. Members govern the Group through the Boards of Governors and the Boards of Executive Directors.

The Boards of Governors consist of one governor and one alternate governor appointed by each member country. The office is usually held by the country's Minister of Finance, Minister for Development, Governor of its central bank or a senior official of similar rank. The Governors and Alternates serve five-year terms and can be reappointed.

Because the Governors only meet formally twice a year, most governance work is delegated to a resident board of 25 Executive Directors, located in Washington, DC.

Seven of the Executive Directors are single country chairs. The other 18 are elected according to the wishes of their constituency member countries, but usually represent the larger shareholders within their multi-country constituency. The 25 Directors and 25 Alternate Directors are elected for two-year terms. The current term began in November 2024.

If a World Bank member country is also a member of the IFC or IDA, then the appointed Governor and his or her Alternate serve ex officio as the Governor and Alternate on the IFC and IDA Boards of Governors. They usually also serve as representatives of their country on the ICSID Administrative Council.

While MIGA Governors and Alternates are appointed separately, it is customary for the MIGA Directors to be the same as the World Bank Executive Directors.

More governance information is on the World Bank website under 'Who We Are', then 'Organization'.

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 473 1000
Fax: +1 202 477 6391

Website: www.worldbank.org/ibrd
President: Ajay Banga, USA (since 2 June 2023)

Purpose

The IBRD, the original World Bank Group institution, provides loans, guarantees, risk management products and advisory services to middle-income and credit-worthy low-income countries, and coordinates responses to regional and global challenges. It was established to promote the international flow of capital for productive purposes and to assist in financing the rebuilding of nations devastated by World War II.

The IBRD articles were drawn up at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 and the Bank issued its first bond in 1947. IBRD's mission, along with other institutions of the World Bank Group, is now to eliminate extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity. This work is undertaken largely through technical assistance and lending to client member governments for productive projects, to finance reform programmes and to build local capacity.

Financing

Each Member State has shareholding in IBRD that consists of paid-in and callable capital. No call has ever been made on IBRD capital. IBRD finances its lending activities with its equity, comprising retained earnings and paid-in capital, and by issuing bonds on international capital markets.

IBRD's administrative budget is managed jointly with the International Development Association's (IDA's) budget and is financed by its lending activities, a pro-rata contribution from IDA, income from equity and liquidity management and also externally financed trust funds.

On 1 October 2018, Governors authorized a $60.1 billion capital increase, including a $7.5 billion paid-in portion and a $52.6 billion callable portion. Member States had five years within which to subscribe to the shares made available to them as a result of this capital increase.

Since 1946, IBRD has provided more than $500 billion in loans to alleviate poverty around the world, with its shareholder governments paying in about $14 billion in capital.

Structure

Information about governance is included at the start of the World Bank Group section.

Membership

IBRD membership is restricted to members of the International Monetary Fund that have ratified the articles of the Bank and accepted the terms laid down by it. A list of the 189 members is available at www.worldbank.org under 'Who We Are', then 'Organization' (click on 'Member Countries', then select IBRD).

International Development Association (IDA)

1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 473 1000
Fax: +1 202 477 6391

Website: www.worldbank.org/ida
President: Ajay Banga, USA (since 2 June 2023)

Purpose

The IDA provides low-interest loans, called credits, and grants to governments of low-income countries (gross national income per capita less than an established threshold and updated annually ($1335 in fiscal year 2024)) and to a number of small states that are above this threshold (the 'Small State Exception').

IDA began operations in 1960 to finance projects or reform programmes in countries that are not able to service loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). With 175 member countries, IDA has become the leading source of concessional lending to the world's poorest countries.

Financing

IDA's lending resources are supplemented by regular replenishments, typically every three years, from donors. Donor representatives, referred to as IDA Deputies, meet regularly to review IDA's performance, review its policies, agree target results for the upcoming financing cycle and replenish IDA funds.

The most recent replenishment, concluded in December 2024, was the 21st (IDA21), for a policy and financial package to support 78 countries from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028. The IDA21 replenishment is a record $100 billion (compared with $93 billion for IDA20). This replenishment is financed through a combination of contributions from 59 donor countries, repayment of past IDA credits, IBRD contributions and capital markets.

Structure

IDA is affiliated to IBRD and shares the same Governor, Executive Directors, President, management and staff as the IBRD. More information about governance is included at the start of the World Bank Group section.

Membership

Membership is open to IBRD member countries. A list of the 175 members is available at www.worldbank.org under 'Who We are', then 'Organization' (find 'Member Countries', then select IDA).

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

2121 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 473 1000
Fax: +1 202 973 4384
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IFCwbg
X: @IFC_Org

Website: www.ifc.org
Managing Director: Makhtar Diop, Senegal (since March 2021)

Purpose

IFC was established in 1956. It undertakes debt and equity investments in private or (in some instances) part-government enterprises in developing countries. In making these investments,

IFC focuses on supporting profitable ventures undertaking activities with broad economic development impact that might not otherwise proceed or where IFC involvement can improve the quality of the activity (for example, through enhanced environmental and social standards). IFC undertakes these investments from its own account, but also mobilizes private investors' funds through various syndication and mobilization mechanisms.

Together with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA), IFC provides advisory services to help governments improve the climate for investment and private sector development.

Capital

Although affiliated to the IBRD, IFC is a separate legal entity and its capital is entirely separate from that of the Bank. Its major source of borrowings is the international capital markets. Unlike the IBRD, IFC has no callable capital.

In April 2020, the IFC Board of Governors adopted a resolution authorizing a $5.5 billion capital increase from Member States.

In fiscal year 2024, IFC invested a record $55.8 billion in emerging markets, including over $22 billion mobilized.

Structure

IFC shares the same Governor, Executive Directors and President as the IBRD, but has its own management and staff. More information about governance is included at the start of the World Bank Group section.

Membership

Membership is open to all IBRD members. A list of the 186 members is available at www.worldbank.org under 'Who We Are', then 'Organization' (click on 'Member Countries', then select IFC).

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 475 2538
Fax: +1 202 522 0316
Email: migainquiry@worldbank.org

Website: www.miga.org
Executive Vice President: Hiroshi Matano, Japan (since 2019)

Purpose

MIGA was created as a member of the World Bank Group to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth by insuring against political risk. MIGA guarantees or insures eligible investments against losses arising from non-commercial risk such as unexpected restrictions on currency transfer, expropriation, breach of contract by governments, and war and civil disturbance. MIGA also provides credit enhancement to commercial lenders that provide loans to sovereign and sub-sovereign entities, as well as state-owned enterprises (SOEs) entities for infrastructure and other productive investments. It charges premiums for these services. MIGA also carries out research and promotional activities related to foreign direct investment. The international convention establishing MIGA took effect on 12 April 1988.

Guarantee business

Since its creation, MIGA has issued over $84 billion of guarantees across 123 developing countries in support of more than 1030 projects. By the third quarter of fiscal year 2025, as at 31 March 2025, it had a gross guarantee exposure of $35.9 billion, which, due to reinsurance, converts to a net exposure of $11 billion. More detail about guarantees is available on the website under 'About', then 'Learn More').

Structure

MIGA is legally and financially independent but cooperates closely with the other World Bank Group organizations. Information about governance is included at the start of the World Bank Group section.

Membership

Membership is open to all IBRD members. A list of the 182 MIGA members is available at www.worldbank.org under 'Who We are', then 'Organization' (click on 'Member Countries', then select MIGA) and on the MIGA website (from 'About').

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 458 1534
Fax: +1 202 522 2615
Email: ICSIDsecretariat@worldbank.org

Website: icsid.worldbank.org
Secretary-General: Martina Polasek, Czechia/Sweden (since 1 July 2024)

Purpose

ICSID provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes. It is an autonomous institution established under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between States and Nationals of Other States, which was opened for signature in Washington, DC, on 18 March 1965. The Convention provides a voluntary mechanism for settling disputes between governments and foreign investors.

Structure

Information about governance is included at the start of the World Bank Group section.

Membership

Membership is dependent on ratification of the Convention. As at 1 July 2025, there were 165 signatory states to the Convention, of which 158 have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval. A list is on the ICSID website under 'Member States'.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)

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Fax: +1 202 623 4661
Email: publicaffairs@imf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/imf
X: @IMFNews

Website: www.imf.org
Managing Director and Executive Board Chair: Kristalina Georgieva, Bulgaria (since 1 October 2019; reappointed by the IMF Executive Board for a second five-year term starting 1 October 2024)

Purpose

The IMF promotes international monetary cooperation and exchange rate stability, facilitates the balanced growth of international trade and provides resources to help members with balance of payments difficulties. It is a UN specialized agency but has its own charter, governing structure and finances. The IMF Articles of Agreement were drawn up at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.

The Fund has 191 member countries as at 1 July 2025. Its key activities are:

- Policy advice to governments and central banks based on analysis of economic and financial trends and cross-country experiences
- Research, statistics, forecasts and analysis based on tracking of global, regional and individual economies and markets, including the impact of policies of individual countries on other economies
- Loans to help countries overcome actual or potential difficulties making international payments
- Concessional loans to low-income countries
- Technical assistance and training to help countries build and strengthen their expertise and institutions.

IMF financing

Quota is a member country's permanent financial commitment to the IMF, which can be called on to provide reserve currencies for IMF loans. Total quota across the IMF membership is the equivalent of $960 billion. Each country's share of this quota is, or should be, broadly representative of its relative position in the world economy. Quota plays a key role in determining a country's:

- Financial contributions to the Fund, because countries are not obliged to contribute more than their quota to the IMF
- Access to financing, because the amount a country can borrow from the IMF is determined as a percentage of its quota
- Voting power, because a country's voting share at the IMF is largely determined by its share of quota
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) allocation, because quotas determine a country's share in a general allocation of SDRs (an international reserve asset created by the IMF to supplement the official reserves of its member countries).

The IMF also has arrangements to borrow from member countries. Under the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB), a group of stronger members has agreed to lend the Fund up to $490 billion to supplement quota resources, if required. As a further backstop, the IMF has made individual, time-limited bilateral agreements with some member countries to borrow up to $190 billion if quota and the NAB prove insufficient.

The IMF reviews quotas periodically. It concluded the 16th General Review of Quotas in December 2023, which approved an increase in quotas by 50 percent. At the same time, it agreed to reduce temporary borrowing to maintain the IMF's overall lending capacity. Changes to quotas and borrowing levels will be implemented after member countries provide their consent.

The IMF has lending capacity of around $930 billion to provide a global financial safety net. Unlike development banks, the IMF does not lend for specific projects. Instead, it lends reserve currencies to countries that are having, or potentially having, problems making international payments. The IMF has several lending instruments to meet the different needs of its member countries. IMF members have access to the General Resources Account on non-concessional terms (market-based interest rates) as well as precautionary financing facilities to help prevent crises. The IMF also provides concessional financial support through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust, which is tailored to the needs of low-income countries. The recently

established Resilience and Sustainability Trust offers longer-term financing to low-income and vulnerable middle-income countries seeking to build resilience to external shocks. Further information is available on the IMF website.

Structure

The Board of Governors comprises one governor and one alternate governor appointed by each member country, often the Minister of Finance and the Central Bank Governor. A subset of governors, one for each constituency, comprises the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), which advises the IMF on the supervision and management of the international monetary system.

While the Board of Governors is the highest body, it delegates almost all decisions to the IMF's resident Executive Board in Washington, DC. The Executive Board is composed of 25 directors and the Managing Director, who serves as its chair. Seven Board members represent only one country: China, France, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, UK and USA. The other members represent the interests of constituencies made up of several countries. More details about governance and how the IMF makes decisions are on the IMF website.

Meetings

The Executive Board usually meets several times each week. The Board of Governors of the IMF, together with the Board of Governors of the World Bank, meets each year in October, at the Annual Meetings. The formal meeting of the Governors is nowadays largely ceremonial and is one of many gatherings and events that stretch over several days. This includes a meeting of the IMFC, which also meets during the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings in April.

Membership

Membership is open to all countries, on acceptance by a majority of the existing members. Ratification of the articles and acceptance of conditions laid down by the Fund are conditions of membership. The IMF's 191 members are listed on the website.

OTHER RELATED BODIES

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Vienna International Centre
Wagramer Strasse 5
PO Box 100
A–1400 Vienna
Austria
Telephone: +43 1 2600 0
Fax: +43 1 2600 7

Email: official.mail@iaea.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/iaeaorg/
X: @iaeaorg
Instagram: @iaeaorg
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/iaea
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/iaea_imagebank/
Weibo: www.weibo.com/iaeaorg

Website: www.iaea.org
Director General: Rafael Mariano Grossi, Argentina (appointed by the Board of Governors in October 2019; took office December 2019; reappointed in March 2023 for a second four-year term from December 2023)

Purpose

The IAEA's role is to accelerate and enlarge the contribution nuclear science and technology make to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. The Agency is also charged with ensuring that the assistance it provides is not used to further any military purposes. The IAEA Statute entered into force in 1957, making it an independent intergovernmental organization under the aegis of the UN rather than a specialized agency.

The Agency seeks to act as a catalyst for the development and transfer of the peaceful applications of nuclear science, technologies and techniques to build and maintain a global nuclear safety and security regime and to assist in global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is authorized by its Statute to:

- Encourage and assist research on atomic energy for peaceful purposes worldwide
- Act as an intermediary in the supply of materials, services, equipment and facilities
- Foster the exchange of scientific and technical information
- Encourage the exchange and training of scientists and experts
- Establish and administer safeguards in connection with Agency projects
- Apply safeguards, at the request of the parties, to any bilateral or multilateral arrangement, or at the request of a state, to any of that state's activities in the field of atomic energy
- Establish safety standards and provide for their application.

Safeguards are one of the IAEA's main functions. Currently, the IAEA applies safeguards for 190 states with safeguards agreements in force. The aim is to verify states' undertakings to use nuclear material and technology for peaceful purposes. Through the implementation of safeguards, the IAEA provides assurances to the international community that nuclear material remains in peaceful activities and is not diverted to nuclear weapons and that states comply with their international non-proliferation obligations.

Several treaties require parties to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements (CSA) with the Agency. These include the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Treaty of Tlatelolco (the Latin American Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone), the Treaty of Pelindaba (the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone), the Treaty of Bangkok (the ASEAN Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone), the Treaty of Rarotonga (the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone) and the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (CANWFZ) Treaty.

The Agency helps its Member States improve nuclear safety by developing and promoting safety standards and by supporting Member State efforts to establish and implement safety regulations and manage nuclear activities. It also works to mobilize peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology for critical needs in developing countries and transfer related knowledge through its technical cooperation programme.

In the security area, the focus is on helping states prevent, detect and respond to terrorist or other malicious acts, such as illegal possession, use, transfer and trafficking of radioactive materials, and to protect associated facilities and transport against sabotage. Although the IAEA is not a regulatory body, many countries have used its recommendations as a basis for national regulations.

The Agency is committed to contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by making peaceful nuclear technology available to its Member States. It helps countries use nuclear science and technology for climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.

Conventions

The Agency also has important functions under international conventions, in particular those related to emergency response and preparedness in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency. These conventions (with party numbers as at 1 July 2025) are: the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, which was adopted on 27 September 1986 and entered into force on 27 October 1986 (135 parties) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, which was adopted on 26 September 1986 and entered into force on 26 February 1987 (129 parties).

On 17 June 1994, an IAEA Diplomatic Conference adopted the Convention on Nuclear Safety. It entered into force on 24 October 1996 (98 parties). Other conventions adopted under the

auspices of the IAEA in the field of nuclear safety, security and civil liability for nuclear damage (with numbers as at 1 July 2025) are the:

- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, which was adopted on 5 September 1997 and entered into force on 18 June 2001 (91 parties)
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which was adopted on 26 October 1979 and entered into force on 8 February 1987 (165 parties). An amendment to this Convention was adopted on 8 July 2005 and entered into force on 8 May 2016 (138 parties)
- Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, which was adopted on 21 May 1963 and entered into force on 12 November 1977 (47 parties)
- Protocol to Amend the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, which was adopted on 12 September 1997 and entered into force on 4 October 2003 (17 parties)
- Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention, which was adopted on 21 September 1988 and entered into force on 27 April 1992 (36 parties)
- Optional Protocol concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, which entered into force on 13 May 1999 (two parties)
- Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, which was adopted on 12 September 1997 and entered into force on 15 April 2015 (11 parties).

The Agency provides upon request a broad range of legislative and technical assistance to support states that are party to the conventions and other international legal instruments. For details about conventions and treaties, see the IAEA website.

Structure

The General Conference is composed of representatives of all IAEA Member States and is the Agency's highest policy-making body. The Board of Governors has 35 members. Thirteen members are designated each year by the Board to serve for one year, and 22 (11 each year) are elected by the General Conference to serve for two years. Article VI of the IAEA Statute requires the Board to designate the 10 members most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials. It also requires the Board to designate the member most advanced in the technology of atomic energy, including the production of source materials, in each of the following areas in which none of the aforesaid 10 is located: North America, Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific, and the Far East.

Elected Board members are representatives from the following areas: five from Latin America, four from Western Europe, three from Eastern Europe, four from Africa, two from the Middle East and South Asia, one from South East Asia and the Pacific and one from the Far East. In addition, one member is elected from the Middle East and South Asia, or South East Asia and the Pacific, or the Far East; and one other member from Africa, or the Middle East and South Asia, or South East Asia and the Pacific. A chair and two vice-chairs are elected annually by the Board.

In 1999, the General Conference approved an amendment to the IAEA Statute concerning the size and distribution of seats on the Board, by which membership would expand from 35 to 43 seats. This amendment will enter into force when two-thirds of all IAEA Member States have accepted it and other conditions are met.

The IAEA's Secretariat is based at the Agency headquarters in Vienna. The IAEA also has three laboratories, in Vienna, Seibersdorf and Monaco; two regional safeguards offices, in Tokyo and Toronto; and two UN liaison offices, in Geneva and New York.

Meetings

The General Conference meets in regular session once a year, usually in Vienna in September. The Board generally meets five times a year, in March and June, twice in September (before and after the General Conference) and in November. Additional meetings can be scheduled.

Membership

Any state can apply to become a member of the IAEA (Statute, Article IV). Membership is granted following recommendation by the Board, approval by the General Conference and deposit of an instrument of acceptance of the IAEA Statute. As at 1 July 2025, the IAEA had 180 Member States. Terms for the Board of Governors run from and to the end of General Conference regular sessions in the years stated in the list of Board members. A list of previous Board chairs is on the website.

Board Officers 2024–25

Chair
Matilda Aku Alomatu Osei-Agyeman, Ghana

Vice-Chair
Caroline Vermeulen, Belgium

Board members (35)

	Previous[1]	Current
Afghanistan	1963–65 2008–10	
Albania	2007–09	
Algeria	1967–69 73–74 81–83 85–87 88–90 91–93 94–96 1999–2001 04–06 07–09 12–14 16–18	2023–25
Argentina	1957–2014 15–24	2024–26
Armenia	2017–19	2023–25
Australia	1957–2024	2024–25
Austria	1965–67 77–79 83–85 90–92 1999–2001 06–08 13–15 20–22	
Azerbaijan	2009–11 18–20	
Bangladesh	1975–77 81–83	2023–25
Belarus	1999–2001 05–07 15–17	
Belgium	1958–59 60–61 62–63 64–65 66–67 68–69 70–71 72–73 76–78 83–85 89–91 91–92 95–99 2003–06 10–13 17–20	2024–25
Bolivia	1999–2001 06–08	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2013–14	
Brazil	1957–2006 06–08 09–24	2024–25
Bulgaria	1959–61 67–69 73–75 77–79 82–84 86–88 91–93 95–97 2001–03 11–13 22–24	
Burkina Faso	2001–03 08–10	2023–25
Burundi	2021–23	
Cameroon	1990–92 2009–11	
Canada	1957–2024	2024–25
Chile	1964–66 70–72 73–74 75–77 79–81 83–85 86–88 89–91 92–94 95–97 1998–2000 01–03 06–08 10–12 14–16 17–19	
China	1984–2024	2024–25
Colombia	1961–63 65–67 71–73 75–77 81–83 87–89 93–95 96–98 2001–03 05–07 21–23	2024–26
Costa Rica	1973–75 2012–14 16–18 22–24	
Côte d'Ivoire	1984–86 88–90 2016–18	
Croatia	2006–08	

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Cuba 1983–85 87–89 90–92 93–95 96–98 1999–2001 02–07 08–10 11–13
Czechia 1996–98 2002–04 10–12 21–23
DR Congo 1963–65 71–73 74–76 82–84 91–93
Denmark 1958–59 62–63 66–67 70–71 73–74 75–77 82–84 88–90 95–97 2002–04 09–11 16–18 22–24
Ecuador 1977–79 84–86 91–93 2004–06 07–09 10–12 18–20 2023–25
Egypt 1957–60 64–66 71–73 76–97 1998–2007 08–10 11–13 14–16 18–22 2024–26
El Salvador 1960–62
Estonia 2019–21
Ethiopia 1993–95 2006–08
Finland 1960–61 64–65 68–69 72–73 78–80 85–87 92–95 1999–2002 06–09 13–14 15–16 21–24
France 1957–2024 2024–25
Gabon 1973–75
Georgia 2024–26
Germany[2] 1960–62 66–68 1972–2024 2024–25
Ghana[3] 1962–63 65–67 73–74 77–79 88–90 94–96 97–99 2000–02 04–06 07–09 15–17 19–21 2024–26
Greece 1961–63 71–73 78–80 84–86 91–93 1998–2000 05–07 12–14 19–21
Guatemala 1957–58 78–80 85–87 2021–23
Hungary 1961–63 69–71 73–75 78–80 83–85 87–89 92–94 97–99 2003–05 11–13 19–21
India 1957–2024 2024–25
Indonesia 1957–60 62–64 66–68 72–74 75–77 78–80 81–83 84–86 87–89 90–92 93–95 1999–2001 05–07 11–13 17–19 2023–25
Iran 1962–64 68–70 74–76 77–79 90–92 2001–03
Iraq 1960–62 74–76 80–82 83–85 86–88 89–91 2007–09
Ireland 1973–74 79–81 86–88 93–95 2000–02 07–09 14–16 21–23
Italy 1957–58 62–64 68–70 73–86 89–91 93–94 97–99 2003–05 07–08 10–13 17–20 2024–26
Japan 1957–2024 2024–25
Jordan 1984–86 1998–2000 10–12 17–19
Kenya 1979–81 82–84 2009–11 13–15 17–19 22–24
Kuwait 1977–79 87–89 95–97 2001–03 19–21
Latvia 2015–17
Lebanon 1966–68 73–74 80–82 93–95
Libya 1975–77 82–84 87–89 92–94 2000–02 05–07 12–14 21–23
Lithuania 2007–09
Luxembourg 2024–26
Madagascar 1967–69 86–88
Malaysia 1976–78 80–82 84–86 88–90 92–94 96–98 2002–04 08–10 14–16 20–22
Mexico 1959–61 62–64 66–68 72–74 76–78 79–81 82–84 85–87 88–90 91–93 94–96 97–99 2000–02 03–05 07–09 11–13 14–16 20–22
Mongolia 1985–87 2009–11 19–21
Morocco 1963–65 69–71 78–80 84–86 90–92 94–96 97–99 2001–03 06–08 18–20 2024–26

Namibia 1996–98 2015–17 22–24
Netherlands 1958–60 64–66 70–72 75–77 81–83 88–90 95–98 2002–05 09–12 16–19 2023–25
New Zealand 1996–98 2002–04 08–10 14–16 20–22
Nicaragua 1995–97
Niger 1976–78 79–81 2010–12 18–20
Nigeria 1969–71 76–78 80–82 83–85 86–88 89–91 92–94 95–97 1999–2001 03–08 12–16 19–21
North Macedonia 2014–16
Norway 1959–60 63–64 67–68 71–72 77–79 84–86 91–93 1998–2000 05–07 12–14 19–21
Pakistan 1957–59 61–63 65–67 69–71 73–75 76–78 79–81 82–84 85–87 88–90 91–93 94–96 97–99 2000–08 09–11 12–14 15–17 18–20 21–23 2024–26
Panama 1976–78 81–83 2002–04 19–21
Paraguay 1992–94 2015–17 19–21 2023–25
Peru 1957–60 67–69 73–75 77–79 80–82 84–86 88–90 97–99 2000–05 09–11 13–14 16–18 20–22
Philippines 1959–61 67–69 73–77 79–81 83–85 89–91 93–95 2001–03 07–09 15–17
Poland 1958–59 60–61 62–63 64–65 66–67 68–69 70–71 72–73 75–77 80–82 85–87 89–91 93–95 1999–2001 03–05 12–14 20–22
Portugal 1957–58 59–60 61–62 63–64 65–66 67–68 69–70 71–72 76–78 82–84 90–92 96–98 2004–06 10–12 17–19
Qatar 2013–15 16–18 22–24
ROK 1957–59 65–67 73–75 77–79 81–83 85–89 91–93 1995–2001 03–07 09–13 15–19 21–23 2023–25
Romania 1957–59 63–65 71–73 77–79 81–83 91–93 95–97 2001–03 08–10
Russian Federation 1957–2024 2024–25
Saudi Arabia 1972–74 78–80 86–88 89–91 92–94 95–97 1998–2000 02–04 07–09 11–13 14–16 19–21 22–24
Senegal 1975–78 87–89 2020–22
Serbia 2017–19
Singapore 1968–70 1998–2000 04–06 10–12 16–18 22–24
Slovakia 1994–96 1998–2000 04–06 13–15
Slovenia 1997–99 2005–07 16–18 21–23
South Africa 1957–77 1995–2024 2024–25
Spain 1959–61 69–71 74–76 81–83 86–89 92–93 94–96 2000–04 08–10 14–17 21–22 2023–25
Sri Lanka 1959–61 67–69 71–73 2004–06
Sudan 1973–75 80–82 85–87 1998–2000 02–04 13–14 17–19
Sweden 1957–58 61–62 65–66 69–70 73–75 80–82 85–94 1997–2000 04–07 11–15 18–21
Switzerland 1963–65 73–75 79–81 86–89 93–95 96–97 2000–03 07–10 14–17 20–23
Syrian AR 1970–72 83–85 92–94 1999–2001 05–07
Thailand 1960–62 64–66 70–72 74–76 78–80 82–84 86–88 90–92 94–96 2000–02 06–08 12–14 18–20 2024–26
Tunisia[3] 1962–63 65–67 77–79 83–85 89–91 93–95 96–98 2003–05 10–12

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Türkiye	1957–59 67–69 74–76 80–82 87–89 94–96 2001–03 08–10 15–17 22–24
Ukraine	1990–92 93–95 2000–02 09–11 2023–25
UAE	1996–98 2010–12 13–14 16–18 20–22
UK	1957–2024 2024–25
UR of Tanzania	1978–80 2011–13
USA	1957–2024 2024–25
Uruguay	1963–65 69–71 74–76 80–82 90–92 94–96 1998–2000 08–10 12–14 15–17 18–20 22–24
Venezuela	1958–60 68–70 74–76 78–80 82–84 86–88 89–91 2004–06 09–11 13–14 17–19 2024–26
Viet Nam	1961–63 69–71 91–93 97–99 2003–05 13–14 21–23
Yemen	2004–06
Zambia	1974–76 81–83

Members that have not served on the Board

Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas
Bahrain
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Botswana
Brunei Darussalam
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cambodia[4]
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Cook Islands
Cyprus
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Eritrea
Eswatini
Fiji
Gambia
Grenada
Guinea
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Iceland
Israel
Jamaica
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Lao PDR
Lesotho
Liberia
Liechtenstein
Malawi
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Monaco
Montenegro
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Oman
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Republic of Moldova
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Tajikistan
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Zimbabwe

Notes

1 The former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia served on the Board in 1965–67, 1975–77, 1979–81, 1983–85 and 1987–89. Czechoslovakia served on the Board in 1957–74, 1976–78, 1981–83, 1985–87 and 1989–91. The DPRK, which joined the IAEA in 1974, withdrew its membership on 13 June 1994.

2 Prior to 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic had been a member of the Board in 1974–76, 1979–81, 1984–86 and 1988–90.

3 One year as an observer.

4 Cambodia, which joined the IAEA in 1958, withdrew its membership on 26 March 2003. It rejoined on 23 November 2009.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

PO Box 19519
2500 CM, The Hague
The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 70 515 8515
Email: PublicAffairs.Unit@icc-cpi.int
X: @IntlCrimCourt

Website: www.icc-cpi.int
Registrar: Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Ecuador (elected by the Judges for a five-year term 2023–28)

Purpose

The ICC is a permanent international court with the power to exercise its jurisdiction over individuals suspected of having committed, since 1 July 2002, the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. It is not a body of the UN, but an independent organization. Its relationship with the UN is governed by a separate relationship agreement.

The Court was established as a new international organization by the Rome Statute, which was adopted on 17 July 1998 by the UN Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. The Conference was convened pursuant to GA res. 51/207 (1996) and GA res. 52/160 (1997).

States decide to accept the jurisdiction of the Court by becoming party to the Rome Statute, to which there are 125 States Parties (as at 1 July 2025). Unless a situation is referred to the ICC Prosecutor by the Security Council, the Court may exercise jurisdiction only if either the state in which the suspected crime occurred or the state of nationality of the person suspected of having committed the crime is a party to the Rome Statute; or otherwise has accepted the jurisdiction of the Court. As a Court of last resort complementary to domestic jurisdictions, the ICC may exercise jurisdiction only when national legal systems are not, or not genuinely, investigating or prosecuting the alleged crimes. For its daily operations, the Court relies on the assistance of the States Parties, who have an obligation to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of Rome Statute crimes.

The Court issued its first verdict in March 2012. As at 1 July 2025, 33 cases involving a total of 70 defendants had been brought before the Court and the Prosecutor had opened 17 investigations. Details are on the website under ‘Situations and Cases’.

Structure

The ICC is composed of the Presidency, Chambers, Office of the Prosecutor and Registry. The Assembly of States Parties, composed of representatives of states that have ratified and acceded to the Rome Statute, is the ICC’s management oversight and legislative body (see asp.icc-cpi.int). The Court’s seat is in The Hague, although the Court may sit elsewhere whenever it considers it desirable to do so.

The ICC’s 18 judges are elected by the Assembly and are chosen from two lists:

- Candidates with established competence in criminal law and procedure, and the necessary relevant experience – whether as judge, prosecutor, advocate or in another similar capacity in criminal proceedings
- Candidates with established competence in relevant areas of international law, such as international humanitarian law and the law of human rights, and extensive experience in a professional legal capacity that is relevant to the judicial work of the Court.

In the selection of judges, States Parties must take into account the need for representation of the principal legal systems of the world, equitable geographical distribution and a fair representation of female and male judges. Judges are elected for terms of nine years and may not be re-elected. The terms of one-third of the 18 judges expire every three years. The

President and Vice-Presidents are elected for a three-year term by an absolute majority of the judges and shall be eligible for re-election once. The current term began on 11 March 2024.

The Office of the Prosecutor is an independent organ of the Court headed by the Prosecutor, who can be assisted by one or more deputy prosecutors. The Prosecutor is elected by the Assembly, and the Deputy Prosecutors are elected in the same way from a list of candidates provided by the Prosecutor. The Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutors must be of different nationalities. Unless a shorter term is decided on at the time of election, the Prosecutor and Deputy Prosecutors hold office for nine years and are not eligible for re-election. The term of office of the current Prosecutor, Karim Asad Ahmad Khan KC, UK, commenced in June 2021. The term of office of the Deputy Prosecutors, Mame Mandiaye Niang, Senegal, and Nazhat Shameem Khan, Fiji, commenced in March 2022.

The Registry is headed by the Registrar, who is the Court's principal administrator. The Registrar is elected by the Judges of the Court, taking into account any recommendation by the Assembly. If the need arises, and the Registrar so recommends, the Judges may also elect a deputy registrar. Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Ecuador, was elected Registrar on 10 February 2023 and commenced his five-year term on 17 April 2023.

Meetings

The Assembly meets annually, usually in December, in The Hague or New York.

Judges

Listed in order of precedence; terms end in March of the year shown.

President
Tomoko Akane, Japan 2027

First Vice-President
Rosario Salvatore Aitala, Italy 2027

Second Vice-President
Reine Alapini-Gansou, Benin 2027

Judges
Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza, Peru 2027
Solomy Balungi Bossa, Uganda 2027
Kimberly Prost, Canada 2027
Joanna Korner, UK 2030
Gocha Lordkipanidze, Georgia 2030
Socorro Flores Liera, Mexico 2030
Sergio Gerardo Ugalde Godínez, Costa Rica 2030
Miatta Maria Samba, Sierra Leone 2030
Althea Violet Alexis-Windsor, Trinidad and Tobago 2030
Keebong Paek, ROK 2033
Erdenebalsuren Damdin, Mongolia 2033
Iulia Motoc, Romania 2033
Haykel Ben Mahfoudh, Tunisia 2033
Nicolas Guillou, France 2033
Beti Hohler, Slovenia 2033

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)

Building 40
Russian Federation Boulevard (street 110)
Mittapheap district, 7 Makara commune
Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Telephone: +855 23 861 500
Fax: +855 23 861 555
Email: info@eccc.gov.kh

Website: www.eccc.gov.kh/en
Acting Director of the Office of Administration: Tony Kranh, Cambodia (since 2009)
Deputy Director of the Office of Administration: Knut Rosandhaug, Norway (since 2008)

Purpose

The ECCC is a special Cambodian court made up of both Cambodian and international judges and attorneys. It operates with international participation and assistance, and is required to apply international standards. It was established following a request in 1997 from the Government of Cambodia to the United Nations for assistance in establishing a court for the prosecution under Cambodian law of crimes committed during the period of Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979. In 2001, the Cambodian National Assembly passed a law to create the ECCC. An agreement concluded by Cambodia and the UN in June 2003 established that the international community would provide technical assistance to the ECCC through the UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT) (see www.unakrt-online.org).

The Court had jurisdiction over senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those who were most responsible for the crimes and serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom and international conventions recognized by Cambodia, that were committed between 17 April 1975 and 6 January 1979 (Article 1 of the UN–Cambodia Agreement and Article 1 of the Law on the Establishment of the ECCC).

Judicial proceedings were completed in December 2022. The ECCC is now carrying out various residual functions for an initial period of three years, as outlined in the Addendum to the Agreement between the UN and the Royal Government of Cambodia on the Transitional Arrangements and the Completion of Work of the Extraordinary Chambers (approved by the UN in GA res. 75/257B (2021)). During this phase, the ECCC will supervise the enforcement of sentences, provide for the protection of victims and witnesses, preserve and manage its archives, and disseminate information to the public, among other functions.

Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL)

Churchillplein 1
2517 JW, The Hague
PO Box 19536
2500 CM, The Hague
The Netherlands

Branch Office
Jomo Kenyatta Road
Freetown
Sierra Leone

Telephone: +31 70 525 8481
Email: info@rscsl.org
X: @SpecialCourt

Website: www.rscsl.org/

Prosecutor: James C Johnson, USA (former Chief of Prosecutions at the Special Court; appointed to the Residual Special Court in September 2019; reappointed in 2022)

Registrar: Binta Mansaray, Sierra Leone (former Registrar of the Special Court for Sierra Leone; appointed to the Residual Special Court as Acting Registrar in December 2013 and as Registrar in September 2014; most recently reappointed in 2023)

Principal Defender: Ibrahim Sorie Yillah, Sierra Leone (appointed in September 2015; appointment most recently renewed in September 2024)

Purpose

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone was established by an agreement between the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone to oversee the continuing legal obligations of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) after its closure in 2013. These include ongoing functions such as the maintenance, preservation and management of the Court's archive; witness protection and support; assistance to national prosecution authorities; supervision of prison sentences, pardons, commutations and early releases; and ad hoc functions, including review of convictions and acquittals, contempt of court proceedings, defence counsel and legal aid issues, claims for compensation, prevention of double jeopardy, and the trial of any indictee not brought before the Court. The RSCSL also maintains the Sierra Leone Peace Museum as a memorial, research and historical site.

The SCSL was established in January 2002 by an agreement between the UN and the Government of Sierra Leone, pursuant to SC res. 1315 (2000), for a special court to address serious crimes committed during the country's 1991 to 2002 civil war. The Court, the first 'hybrid' international criminal tribunal, began operations in July 2002 and the first indictments were issued in March 2003. The Court closed on 31 December 2013, following completion of the appeals proceedings in the case of Charles Taylor, former Liberian President, in September 2013.

Structure

The roster of judges consists of no fewer than 16, 10 of whom are appointed by the UN Secretary-General and six by the Government of Sierra Leone. The Judges appoint the President of the Court, who acts as a Duty Judge and may assign judges to a Trial Chamber or Appeals Chamber, should the need arise.

The Residual Special Court has its interim seat in the Netherlands, with an office in Sierra Leone for witness and victim protection and support, and matters related to the convicted persons.

Judges

Terms are for six years, starting January 2020. The first 16 Judges were elected in December 2013. In 2019, 10 Judges were reappointed by the UN Secretary-General, four Judges were reappointed by the Government of Sierra Leone, and two new Judges were appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Appointed by the UN

Richard Brunt Lussick, Samoa (President, elected in March 2024 for a two-year term)

Pierre G Boutet, Canada

Renate Winter, Austria

Teresa Anne Doherty, UK

Shireen Avis Fisher, USA

Philip Nyamu Waki, Kenya

Oagile Bethuel Key Dingake, Botswana

Andrew John Hatton, UK

Isaack Lenaola, Kenya (Vice-President, elected in March 2024 for a two-year term)

Paula da Conceição Machatine Honwana, Mozambique[1]

Appointed by the Government of Sierra Leone

Jon Kamanda, Sierra Leone

Emmanuel Ekundayo Roberts, Sierra Leone

Desmond Babatunde Edwards, Sierra Leone

Eldred Taylor-Camara, Sierra Leone

Alusine Sanie Sesay, Sierra Leone (Staff Appeal Judge, elected in March 2024 for a two-year term)

Tonia Barnett, Sierra Leone

Note

1 Appointed in January 2024 to serve the remainder of the term of Judge Elizabeth Ibanda-Nahamya, Uganda, who passed away on 5 January 2023.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR The Hague
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 70 416 3300
Email: public.affairs@opcw.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/opcwonline
X: @OPCW
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/opcw/
YouTube: www.youtube.com/opcw

Website: www.opcw.org

Director-General: Fernando Arias, Spain (since 25 July 2018; reappointed by the Conference of the States Parties in November 2021 for a second four-year term from 25 July 2022)

Purpose

The OPCW was created under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (CWC). The Convention was negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament and entered into force on 29 April 1997. The OPCW's role is to ensure the implementation of the Convention's provisions and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation. The OPCW is an independent intergovernmental organization, not a UN specialized agency. An agreement concerning the relationship between the UN and the OPCW was signed in 2000 and approved by the Conference of the States Parties and the UN General Assembly in 2001 (GA res. 55/283).

The Convention is a global disarmament treaty that bans the development, production, stockpiling and use of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction – chemical weapons – and provides for the destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons and related facilities within a specific timeframe.

The Convention also contains provisions for the production, processing, consumption and, to some degree, the international transfer of toxic chemicals that can be converted into or used to produce chemical weapons. To this end, the OPCW engages with the chemical industry by means of compulsory annual national declarations by States Parties, is notified of the transfer of some chemicals listed in the Convention and conducts routine inquiry inspections under its verification regime to ensure compliance with the Convention.

States Parties are obliged, under Article VII of the Convention, to enact national legislation implementing the obligations provided for under the CWC. The Technical Secretariat provides States Parties with legal assistance in drafting their national implementation legislation and with other forms of technical assistance. The OPCW is also working to promote international cooperation and the peaceful use of chemistry under Article XI. States Parties can also request and receive, under certain circumstances, assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons under Article X of the Convention.

In October 2013, the OPCW and the UN established an OPCW–UN Joint Mission to oversee the timely elimination of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons programme in the safest and most secure manner and in accordance with the OPCW Executive Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 and UN Security Council res. 2118 (2013). The Joint Mission ended on 30 September 2014. The OPCW mission in the Syrian Arab Republic continues, with safety, security and logistical support from the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

In response to persistent allegations of chemical weapon attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) was set up in 2014 "to establish facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic". The FFM's findings have confirmed that chemical weapons have been used. These findings were the basis for the work of the OPCW–UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), an independent body established by the UN Security Council in August 2015 (SC res. 2235 (2015)). The JIM's purpose was to identify the perpetrators of the chemical weapon attacks confirmed by the FFM. The JIM's mandate expired in December 2017. The Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) was also established in 2014 to engage with the relevant Syrian authorities for them to resolve the identified gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic. As at 1 July 2025, the DAT had conducted 28 rounds of technical consultations, with 19 outstanding issues remaining.

Pursuant to decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, adopted by the OPCW Conference of the States Parties on 27 June 2018, an Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) was established. The IIT was tasked with identifying the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic by identifying and reporting on all information potentially relevant to the origin of those chemical weapons in those instances in which the FFM determines or has determined

that use or likely use occurred, and cases for which the JIM had not issued a report. The IIT has issued four findings reports that cover six of those instances, in April 2020, April 2021, January 2023 and February 2024.

The situation has changed since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024. All legal obligations binding upon the Syrian Arab Republic as a State Party to the Convention remain valid, regardless of any change in government.

The new Syrian authorities are cooperating with the Secretariat and have recognized all the mandates of the Secretariat in Syria as carried out by the DAT, the FFM and the IIT. This recognition allows the Secretariat to rationalize its efforts in the conduct of these activities in a more efficient and integrated manner when deploying to the Syrian Arab Republic.

As of 1 June 2025, the functions of the DAT, FFM and the IIT were integrated into the newly established Office of Special Missions (OSM). From 1 June to 31 December 2025, the IIT will continue its activities in its current form during the transition period. The OSM will organize, coordinate and undertake all contingency operations, including challenge inspections, investigations of alleged use, certain technical assistance visits, certain requests by States Parties for assistance, protection and any other type of investigation pursuant to the Convention. Beyond its current mandated activities in the Syrian Arab Republic, the OSM will operate in other States Parties upon request.

Structure

The Conference of the States Parties is the plenary organ consisting of all OPCW members. It oversees implementation of the Convention and may make recommendations and take decisions on any questions, matters or issues within the scope of the Convention.

The Executive Council is the executive organ responsible to the Conference. Its role includes promoting the effective implementation of and compliance with the Convention. The Executive Council consists of 41 members sitting on a rotational basis with regard to equitable geographical distribution and the importance of the chemical industry, as well as to political and security interests. More governance information is on the website under 'About Us'.

In May 2023, the OPCW inaugurated its new Centre for Chemistry and Technology (CCT), located in Pijnacker-Nootdorp, 12km from OPCW headquarters. This facility enhances the OPCW's operational and capacity-building capabilities.

Meetings

The Conference of the States Parties meets annually in The Hague, usually in November/December. States Parties to the Convention can also request special meetings during the intersessional period. The Conference of the States Parties also convenes in a special session called the Review Conference every five years to examine the CWC's operations. The Executive Council holds three regular sessions annually and meets during the intersessional period as often as required to consider issues of exceptional nature.

Membership

Any state that becomes a State Party to the Convention (Article VIII) is a member of OPCW. As at 1 July 2025, 193 countries were members of the OPCW (DPRK, Egypt, Israel and South Sudan are not members, though Israel is a signatory to the CWC).

Each year the Conference of the States Parties elects members of the Executive Council to two-year terms that run from 12 May to 11 May of the years shown in the following list. The Chair and Vice-Chairs are listed on the website under 'Executive Council'.

Executive Council members (41)

	Previous	Current
Albania	2010–12 22–24	
Algeria	1997–24	2024–26
Angola	2023–25	2025–27
Argentina	1997–2025	2025–27
Armenia	2015–17	
Australia	1997–2000 06–10 16–18 20–22	
Austria	2000–02 08–10 20–22	
Azerbaijan	2017–19	
Bangladesh	1997–2004 16–18 19–21	2024–26
Belarus	1997–98 2002–04 06–08 14–16	
Belgium	1998–2000 02–04 06–08 12–14 16–18 20–22	2024–26
Benin	2002–04	
Bolivia	2012–14	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2006–08	
Botswana	2001–03	
Brazil	1997–2025	2025–27
Bulgaria	1997–98 2001–03 07–09 19–21 22–24	
Cameroon	1997–2005 07–25	2025–27
Canada	2000–04 10–14 18–20 22–24	
Chile	1997–2004 06–10 12–24	2024–26
China	1997–25	2025–27
Colombia	2002–07 10–12 17–19 22–24	
Costa Rica	2008–12	
Côte d'Ivoire	1997–2001	
Croatia	2001–03 11–13 14–16	
Cuba	1998–2002 04–12	
Czechia	1998–2000 03–05 07–09 12–14 18–20 21–23	2025–27
Denmark	2002–04 10–12 18–20	2024–26
Ecuador	1997–2000 10–14 21–23	2024–26
El Salvador	2020–24	2024–26
Ethiopia	1997–2001	
Estonia	2017–19	
Finland	1998–2000 06–08 14–16 22–24	
France	1997–25	2025–27
Gabon	2005–07	
Germany	1997–2025	2025–27
Ghana	2005–09 16–24	2024–26
Greece	2004–06 14–16	2024–26
Guatemala	2006–08 14–24	2024–26
Hungary	1997–99 2002–04 11–13	
India	1997–2025	2025–27
Indonesia	2000–02 18–20	
Iran	1998–2024	2024–26
Iraq	2010–14 15–17 18–20 22–24	
Ireland	2006–08 12–14 22–24	
Italy	1997–2025	2025–27
Japan	1997–2025	2025–27
Kenya	1997–2000 04–08 10–12 13–25	
Kuwait	2003–05 08–10	
Latvia	2015–17	
Lesotho	2005–09	
Libya	2008–18	

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Lithuania	2020–22	2024–26
Luxembourg	2010–12	
Malaysia	2004–06 07–09 11–13 14–16 22–24	2024–26
Malta	1997–98 2018–20	
Mexico	1997–2025	2025–27
Morocco	1999–2008 09–25	2025–27
Mozambique	2009–11	
Namibia	2000–02 11–13	
Netherlands	1997–98 2000–02 04–06 08–10 14–16 18–20 22–24	
New Zealand	2004–06 14–16	2024–26
Nigeria	2001–05 08–10 11–15 18–24	2024–26
North Macedonia	2008–10 23–25	2025–27
Norway	1997–98 2004–06 12–14 20–22	
Oman	1997–98	
Pakistan	1998–2024	2024–26
Panama	2000–06 14–20	2025–27
Peru	1997–2010 12–22	
Philippines	1997–2000 06–08 20–22	
Poland	1997–2002 05–07 09–11 13–15 16–18 20–22	2024–26
Portugal	2002–04 12–14 18–20	
Qatar	2012–14 14–16 23–25	
ROK	1997–2025	2025–27
Romania	1997–2001 05–07 10–12 19–21 23–25	
Russian Federation	1998–2024	
Rwanda	2011–13 23–25	2025–27
Saudi Arabia	1997–2025	2025–27
Senegal	2013–23	
Serbia	2004–06 13–15	
Slovakia	1998–2000 03–05 08–10 16–18 21–23	
Slovenia	2000–02	
South Africa	1997–2024	2024–26
Spain	1997–2002 04–06 08–12 14–18 20–22	2024–26
Sri Lanka	1997–2006 08–12	
Sudan	2001–11 12–14 15–23	2025–27
Suriname	1997–98	
Sweden	2000–02 08–10 16–18	
Switzerland	1998–2000 06–08 16–18	
Thailand	2006–08	
Tunisia	1997–2011 14–16	
Türkiye	2002–04 10–12 22–24	
Ukraine	1999–2001 04–06 09–11 12–14 18–20	2024–26
UAE	2020–22	
UK	1997–2025	2025–27
USA	1997–2021 23–25	2025–27
Uruguay	1997–98 2001–06 09–11 13–15	
Venezuela	1998–2000	
Viet Nam	2016–18	
Zambia	2003–05	
Zimbabwe	1997–2001	

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

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A–1400 Vienna
Austria
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Email: info@ctbto.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/CTBTO/
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LinkedIn: @ctbto

Website: www.ctbto.org
Executive Secretary: Robert Floyd, Australia (since August 2021; reappointed by the Preparatory Commission in November 2024 for a second four-year term from 1 August 2025)

Purpose

The CTBTO, established by the States Signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 19 November 1996, is mandated to carry out the necessary preparations for the entry into force and effective implementation of the Treaty. This includes establishing a global verification regime to monitor Treaty compliance as well as the promotion of signatures and ratifications.

The Treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 September 1996 and opened for signature on 24 September 1996. Article I prohibits all nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Each State Party further undertakes to refrain from causing, encouraging or in any way participating in the carrying out of any such test or explosion.

The Treaty will enter into force after it has been signed and ratified by the 44 states listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty (35 had ratified as at 1 July 2025). These countries possessed nuclear reactors or research reactors and participated in negotiations for the Treaty. Under Article XIV, if the Treaty had not entered into force three years after its opening for signature, a Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force was to be convened. Thirteen such conferences have taken place, with the fourteenth scheduled to be held in September 2025 in New York.

Structure

The CTBTO consists of two main organs:

- A plenary or executive body composed of all States Signatories
- The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

The plenary body has three subsidiary organs: Working Group A on budgetary and administrative matters, Working Group B on verification issues and the Advisory Group consisting of financial experts from States Signatories.

The verification regime consists of three main components: the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC) and on-site inspections (OSI). The IMS is made up of 337 facilities – 321 monitoring stations supported by 16 radionuclide laboratories around the world that monitor the earth for signs of a nuclear explosion. Seismic, infrasound and hydroacoustic stations monitor underground, the atmosphere and oceans respectively. Radionuclide stations detect radioactive debris, and in many cases check for noble gases, emanating from an explosion. The IMS stations send data to the International Data Centre (IDC) in Vienna, where it is processed, analysed and forwarded to Member States for their evaluation and judgement. When the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted nuclear tests in 2006, 2009, 2013, 2016 and 2017, Member States received initial estimates of the time, location and magnitude of the tests in less than two hours. As at 1 July 2025, over 300 monitoring stations were certified. A map on the CTBTO website shows full details of all IMS facilities. The current status of monitoring stations is available under 'Station Profiles'.

Once the Treaty has entered into force, the verification regime will be complemented by on-site inspections (OSI) in the event of a nuclear explosion, a consultation and clarification process as well as confidence-building measures.

IMS data can be used in a variety of civil areas, including scientific research, meteorological and climate forecasting and disaster mitigation, such as tsunami warnings. CTBTO has concluded 21 tsunami warning agreements with institutions in 20 countries. After the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, CTBTO radionuclide data provided a first-hand source of information on the composition and dispersal of radioactive emissions on a global scale.

Membership

A state becomes a member of the CTBTO upon signing the Treaty. Member States oversee the CTBTO's work and fund its activities. As at 1 July 2025, there were 187 States Signatories. Of these, 178 had deposited their instruments of ratification. Thirty-five of the 44 Annex 2 states (whose signature and ratification is required for the Treaty to enter into force) had ratified it, including two nuclear weapon states: France and the UK. The most recent Annex 2 state to ratify the Treaty was Indonesia, which did so on 6 February 2012. The nine Annex 2 states that have not yet ratified the Treaty are: China, DPRK, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Russian Federation and USA. DPRK, India and Pakistan have also yet to sign the Treaty.

International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

PO Box 500
A–1400 Vienna
Austria

Telephone: +43 1 26060 0
Fax: +43 1 26060 5867/5868
Email: incb.secretariat@un.org

Website: www.incb.org
Acting Secretary: Stefano Berterame (since 1 April 2025)

Purpose

The INCB is the independent and quasi-judicial control organ monitoring and supporting implementation of the international drug control conventions. It was established in 1968 in accordance with the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. It had predecessors under the former drug control treaties as far back as the time of the League of Nations.

The functions of INCB are laid down in the following treaties (with party numbers as at 1 July 2025): the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol (186 parties); the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (184 parties); and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (192 parties).

In regard to the manufacture of, trade in and use of drugs, INCB:

- Endeavours, in cooperation with governments, to ensure that adequate supplies of licit drugs are available for medical and scientific uses, and that the diversion of drugs from licit sources to illicit channels does not occur. INCB also monitors governments' control over chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs and assists them in preventing the diversion of those chemicals into the illicit traffic.
- Identifies weaknesses in national and international control systems of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals, and contributes to correcting such situations. INCB is also responsible for assessing chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of drugs to determine whether they should be placed under international control.

If measures necessary to remedy a serious situation have not been taken, INCB may call the matter to the attention of the parties concerned, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and

ECOSOC. As a last resort, the treaties empower INCB to recommend to parties that they stop importing drugs from a defaulting country, exporting drugs to it or both. INCB acts in close cooperation with governments, including through country missions.

INCB publishes an annual report containing an analysis of the drug control situation worldwide so that governments are kept aware of existing and potential situations that may endanger the objectives of the international drug control treaties. The report also includes recommendations for governments and international and regional organizations aimed at improving the drug control situation. The annual report is supplemented by detailed technical reports on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Under the provisions of Article 12 of the 1988 Convention, INCB also publishes a report each year that gives an account of the results of the monitoring of precursors and chemicals frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Structure

INCB consists of 13 members elected by ECOSOC who serve in their personal capacities. Three members with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience are elected from a list of people nominated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and 10 are elected from a list of people nominated by governments. INCB members usually serve five-year terms and may be re-elected.

The INCB Secretariat is an administrative entity of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), but it reports solely to the Board on matters of substance. INCB collaborates closely with UNODC and also cooperates with other international bodies concerned with drug control, including ECOSOC and its Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and other relevant specialized agencies of the UN, particularly WHO. It also cooperates with bodies outside the UN system, especially the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization.

Meetings

INCB sessions are normally held in February, May and November each year.

Membership

Terms end on the eve of the first meeting of the Board that the successor is entitled to attend.

Members (13)

Nominated by WHO

Sawitri Assanangkornchai, Thailand 2030
Cornelis P de Joncheere, Netherlands ..... 2027[1]
Emmanuel Luyirika, Uganda ..... 2027[2]

Nominated by governments

César T Arce Rivas, Paraguay ..... 2030[1]
H H Sevil Atasoy, Türkiye ..... 2027[1]
David T Johnson, USA ..... 2027[1]
Galina A Korchagina, Russian Federation ..... 2027[1]
Pierre Lapaque, France ..... 2030[1]
Lu Lin, China 2027
Jagjit Pavadia, India ..... 2030[1]
N Larissa Razanadimby, Madagascar 2027
Jallal Toufiq, Morocco ..... 2030[1]
Zukiswa Zingela, South Africa ..... 2030[1]

Notes

1 Re-elected for a five-year term.

2 Elected by ECOSOC on 29 July 2025, to complete the remainder of the term of Mariângela Simão, Brazil, who resigned on 30 March 2025.

International Trade Centre (ITC)

Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 730 0111
Fax: +41 22 733 4439
Email: itcreg@intracen.org
X: @ITCnews

Website: www.intracen.org
Executive Director: Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Jamaica (appointed by the UN Secretary-General in July 2020)

Purpose

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the UN. ITC assists small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing and transition economies to become more competitive in global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the Aid for Trade agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ITC was created in 1964 through a decision of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) contracting parties. In 1968, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD, now UN Trade and Development) joined GATT as co-sponsor of ITC. Its legal status was formally confirmed by the General Assembly in 1974 as a joint subsidiary organ of the GATT and the UN, the latter acting through UNCTAD.

Meetings

ITC's annual intergovernmental gathering is called the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) meeting. The JAG is open to all WTO and UNCTAD members, as well as to UN specialized agencies and bodies, other intergovernmental organizations with observer status and non-governmental organizations with an interest in trade promotion. This meeting, held in Geneva, reviews ITC's technical cooperation programme over the preceding year and makes recommendations for its future work programme.

The ITC's annual flagship events include the World Export Development Forum (WEDF) and the World Trade Promotion Organizations (WTPO) Conference and Awards. The inaugural Global SME Ministerial Meeting was held from 22 to 24 July 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the theme 'Navigating New Business Frontiers'. More information about ITC events is available on the website.

Membership

Because of its legal status, ITC does not have a membership of its own. Its de facto members are WTO and UNCTAD Member States.

International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)

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1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 338 9111

Email: upov.mail@upov.int
X: @UPOVint
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/upov-official

Website: www.upov.int
Secretary-General: Daren Tang, Singapore (the UPOV Council appoints the Director-General of WIPO as Secretary-General of UPOV; current term October 2020 to September 2026)

Purpose

UPOV's mission is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants for the benefit of society.

UPOV is an intergovernmental organization established by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, which was adopted in Paris in 1961 and entered into force in 1968. The Convention was revised in 1972, 1978 and 1991. The 1991 Act entered into force in 1998.

Structure

The UPOV Council is responsible for safeguarding the Union's interests, encouraging its development and adopting its work programme and budget. The Council consists of representatives of all members. Each state member has one vote in the Council.

Three committees assist the Council: the Consultative Committee (which prepares the sessions of the Council), the Administrative and Legal Committee and the Technical Committee. Several working groups have been established under the Technical Committee.

The Secretariat is called the Office of the Union and is directed by UPOV's Secretary-General.

Meetings

Information about upcoming meetings is on the UPOV website.

Members (80)

African Intellectual Property Organization
Albania
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Czechia
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
Estonia
European Union
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Mexico
Montenegro
Morocco
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Oman
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Poland
Portugal
ROK
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Serbia
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Türkiye
Ukraine
UK
UR of Tanzania
USA
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 717 9111
Fax: +41 22 798 6150
Email: hq@iom.int
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IOM
X: @UNmigration

Website: www.iom.int
Director General: Amy Pope, USA (elected in May 2023 for a five-year term from 1 October 2023)

Purpose

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM supports migrants across the world, developing effective responses to the shifting dynamics of migration, and is a key source of advice on migration policy and practice. The Organization works in emergency situations, developing the resilience of all people on the move, and particularly those in situations of vulnerability, as well as building capacity within governments to manage all forms and impacts of mobility, utilizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach where possible. Respect for the rights, dignity and well-being of migrants remains paramount.

The IOM Strategic Plan 2024–2028 sets out how the Organization will support its Member States to seize the opportunities and face the challenges of migration, while supporting the world's most vulnerable people. It outlines three strategic objectives: saving lives and protecting people on the move; driving solutions to displacement; and facilitating pathways for regular migration.

IOM was granted permanent observer status to the UN General Assembly in 1992. A cooperation agreement between IOM and the UN was signed in 1996. IOM joined the UN system as a related organization in September 2016, when the agreement outlined in GA res. 70/296 (2016) was signed during the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

In 2016, the General Assembly adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (GA res. 71/1). Annex II of the New York Declaration set in motion a process of intergovernmental consultations and negotiations towards the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Global Compact, a state-led process, was adopted on 10 December 2018 by the majority of UN Member States at an Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, and endorsed by the General Assembly on 19 December 2018 (GA res. 73/195).

IOM serves as Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, established to ensure effective, timely and coordinated system-wide support to Member States in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact. In carrying out its mandate, the Network prioritizes the rights and well-being of migrants and their communities of destination, origin and transit. It places emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach will add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

Structure

IOM's structure is highly decentralized, with over 22,000 staff and over 550 offices in 171 countries. Its Geneva headquarters is composed of the Executive Office and the following pillars: Operations; Management and Reform; Partnerships, Advocacy and Communications; and Strategic Planning and Organizational Performance.

IOM also has six regional offices, two administrative centres, two global offices, one special liaison office, six country offices for partnerships and advocacy and 19 country offices with coordinating functions, and a global network of country offices. The African Capacity Building

Centre for Migration Management is based in the United Republic of Tanzania and the Global Data Institute is based in Berlin.

The Council is the highest authority of the IOM. The Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCPF) is a subsidiary body of the Council that examines and reviews policies, programmes and activities, discusses financial and budgetary matters and considers any matter specifically referred to by the Council. The Director General is elected by the Council for a five-year term, and appoints two deputies for the duration of their term: the Deputy Director General for Operations and the Deputy Director General for Management and Reform. More detailed information about organizational structure is available on the website.

Meetings

The Council meets in regular session once a year and in special sessions at the request of one-third of its members, the Director General or the Chairperson of the Council in urgent circumstances. Its 116th session is scheduled to be held in December 2025 in Geneva, and its Seventh Special Session took place on 29 April 2024. The SCPF normally meets twice a year, and otherwise as may be required, at the request of: the Council; one-third of its members; its Chairperson; or the Director General, after consultation with the Chairperson. Its 37th session is scheduled to be held on 27 and 28 October 2025 in Geneva.

The International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) is IOM's principal forum for migration policy dialogue. It provides a space to analyse current and emerging issues in migration governance and to exchange experiences, policy approaches and effective practices. Consistent with the IOM Constitution, the IDM promotes cooperation and coordination of efforts on international migration issues. The annual theme is decided through consultation with Member States at the beginning of each year.

Membership

As at 1 July 2025, IOM's membership included 175 Member States and eight Observer States, as well as international governmental and non-governmental organizations. A membership list is available on the website. At the beginning of each regular session, the Council elects a Bureau for a one-year term.

Bureau, 116th session (2025)

Chair
Seong Deok Yun, ROK

First Vice-Chair
Luis Juan Chuquihuara Chil, Peru

Second Vice-Chair
Sabri Bachtobji, Tunisia

Rapporteur
Vincenzo Grassi, Italy

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

African Development Bank (AfDB) Group

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Abidjan 01
Côte d'Ivoire

Telephone: +225 27 2026 3900
Email: afdb@afdb.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AfDBGroup
X: @AfDB_Group
Skype: afdb_acc

Website: www.afdb.org
President: Sidi Ould Tah, Mauritania (elected in May 2025 for a five-year term beginning 1 September 2025)

Purpose

The AfDB Group is a multilateral development finance institution. Its overall objective is to support African countries' economic development and social progress by delivering high-quality, transformative investment projects and programmes.

The Bank's 10-year strategy 2024–33 outlines the vision of an Africa that is prosperous, inclusive, resilient and integrated. This vision is supported by twin strategic objectives: accelerating inclusive green growth and driving prosperous and resilient economies. It is based on five priorities: Light up and power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

The AfDB Group comprises three distinct entities under one management:

- African Development Bank (AfDB): the Agreement establishing the AfDB was drawn up in 1963 and entered into force in 1964. The Bank began operations in 1966. Its major role is to contribute to the economic and social progress of African countries, individually and collectively.
- African Development Fund (ADF): the ADF was established in 1972 and became operational in 1974. It makes concessional loans and grants to African countries.
- Nigeria Trust Fund (NTF): the Government of Nigeria set up the NTF in 1976. The Fund makes concessional loans for projects in regional member countries.

Structure

The Board of Governors is the highest decision-making organ of the Bank. It provides strategic guidance on the Bank's policy decisions and operations.

The Board of Directors comprises 20 members holding the title of Executive Director, with 13 representing African member countries and seven representing non-African member countries. The Board of Governors elects the Board of Directors for three-year terms, renewable once.

The Board of Governors elects the President for a five-year term, renewable once. The President acts as the Bank's Chief Executive and conducts its business, as well as being Chairperson of the AfDB and ADF Board of Directors.

Membership

Fifty-four African states are shareholders of the AfDB. Twenty-eight non-African states are also shareholders. Article 3 of the AfDB Agreement, which provides for any independent African state to become a member, also makes provision for membership from outside Africa.

Members

Regional member countries (54)

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
DR Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Sudan
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Non-regional member countries (28)

Argentina
Austria
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
India
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kuwait
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
ROK
Saudi Arabia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Türkiye
UAE (ADF member only)
UK
USA

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group

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United States of America
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Fax: +1 202 623 3096

Email: pic@iadb.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BancoInteramericano/
X: @the_IDB

Website: www.iadb.org
President (Executive Head): Ilan Goldfajn (elected by the Board of Governors in November 2022 for a five-year term)

Purpose

The IDB is the main source of multilateral financing for sustainable economic, social and institutional development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was established in December 1959 to:

- Use its own capital, funds raised in financial markets and other resources for financing the development of borrowing member countries
- Supplement private investment when private capital is unavailable on reasonable terms and conditions
- Provide technical assistance for the preparation, financing and implementation of development plans and projects.

The IDB obtains financial resources from its 48 member countries, borrowings on financial markets, trust funds it administers and through co-financing ventures. It provides non-concessional and concessional loans, grants and technical assistance to its regional member countries and undertakes research. Most of the IDB Group's loans finance key public sector projects although a significant proportion of its operations are directed to the private sector, through IDB Invest (see below).

The IDB's institutional strategy for 2024–30 has three core objectives: reducing poverty and inequality; addressing climate change; and bolstering sustainable growth. It works in seven areas of operational focus: biodiversity, natural capital and climate action; gender equality and inclusion of diverse population groups; institutional capacity, rule of law and citizen security; social protection and human capital development; sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure; productive development and innovation through the private sector; and regional integration.

Operations

The IDB has had nine increases of its ordinary capital since it was founded. Terms for the most recent increase were approved by the Board of Governors in July 2010 and the increase took effect in February 2012. The agreement increased the Bank's Ordinary Capital by $70 billion to more than $170 billion, implemented through to 2020. It also increased resources for the Fund for Special Operations and the IDB Grant Facility, to provide an aid package to Haiti.

In March 2024, the Boards of Governors of IDB and IDB Invest approved a $3.5 billion capital increase to support a new business model for IDB Invest, the Group's private-sector arm. The IDB Board of Governors also approved $400 million more resources and a more scalable, catalytic and sustainable business model for IDB Lab, the Group's innovation and venture capital arm.

In 2024, the IDB approved $12 billion in financing for 95 sovereign-guaranteed projects. IDB Invest secured another $9.8 billion in commitments, while IDB Lab approved $107 million for 72 projects.

Structure

The IDB is an official observer to the UN. It has headquarters in Washington, DC, with country offices in 26 borrowing countries, as well as regional offices in Madrid and Tokyo. The IDB Group includes three organizations based at its headquarters in Washington, DC: the Inter-American Development Bank, IDB Invest and IDB Lab.

The Bank is headed by its Board of Governors, which delegates oversight of Bank operations to the Board of Executive Directors. Each member country appoints a governor, whose voting power is proportional to the Bank's capital subscribed to by the country. The 26 Latin American and Caribbean countries in the IDB hold 50.01 percent of the voting power. The single largest shareholder is the USA, with 30 percent. Members of the Board of Executive Directors serve three-year terms. The President is elected by the Board of Governors for a five-year term.

The Office of Institutional Integrity (OII) plays an important role in the IDB Group's integrity efforts. The OII investigates allegations of fraud and corruption within IDB Group-financed activities and performs prevention work.

Membership

The IDB has 48 member countries, of which 26 are regional shareholding and borrowing countries. The members are listed on the website.

IDB Invest

1350 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20577
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 623 3900
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IDBInvest/

Website: www.idbinvest.org
Chief Executive Officer: James P Scriven, Argentina (since November 2015)

IDB Invest is a multilateral development bank committed to promoting the economic development of its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through the private sector. IDB Invest finances sustainable companies and projects to achieve financial results that maximize economic, social and environmental development for the region. With a current portfolio of $21 billion under management and 394 clients in 25 countries, IDB Invest provides innovative financing and advisory services that meet the needs of its clients in a variety of industries.

IDB Invest has 48 member countries, 26 of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean. All member countries are represented on the Corporation's Board of Executive Directors.

IDB Lab

1300 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20577
United States of America

Telephone: +1 202 942 8211
Fax: +1 202 942 8100

Website: https://bidlab.org/en
Chief Executive Officer: Irene Arias Hofman, Spain (since January 2018)

IDB Lab is the innovation lab for the IDB Group. It conducts high-risk experiments to test new models for engaging and inspiring the private sector to solve economic development problems in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since it began operations as the Multilateral Investment Fund in 1993, IDB Lab has funded nearly 3000 projects and financed more than $2 billion in grants and investments. It is the largest provider of technical assistance for private sector development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IDB Lab finances about 100 projects per year, with a total finance volume of about $90 million. There are 39 donating member countries, both regional and non-regional, listed on the website.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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X: @ADB_HQ
Instagram: @adb_hq
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/asian-development-bank

Website: www.adb.org
President and Chair of the Board of Directors: Masato Kanda, Japan (elected in November 2024 for a term beginning 24 February 2025 and ending 23 November 2026)

Purpose

ADB is a multilateral finance institution founded in 1966 to foster development in the Asia and Pacific region with the aim of reducing poverty. It helps developing member countries by providing loans, technical assistance and grants for a broad range of development activities. Most financing is provided to the public sector, with 30 percent of projects in 2024 directly provided to private enterprises through equity investments and loans.

Working with its members and partners to solve complex challenges together, ADB harnesses innovative financial tools and strategic partnerships to transform lives, build quality infrastructure, and safeguard our planet.

ADB's updated strategy, Strategy 2030 Midterm Review, sharpens the bank's focus on five strategic focus areas:

- Climate action
- Private sector development
- Regional cooperation and public goods
- Digital transformation
- Resilience and empowerment.

Operations

ADB raises funds through bond issues on the world's capital markets and also relies on member contributions, retained earnings from lending operations, transfer from the concessional window and the repayment of loans. It provides grants from several special funds, the largest of which is the Asian Development Fund (ADF).

In 2024, ADB's total commitments from its loans, grants, guarantees, equity investments and technical assistance amounted to $24.3 billion, including $4.9 billion in nonsovereign financing for private sector programmes and projects. It also mobilized an additional $14.9 billion in co-financing. ADB committed a record $11.1 billion in climate finance, including $1.6 billion in nonsovereign financing. Cumulative climate financing between 2019 and 2030 is expected to exceed $100 billion.

As at 31 March 2025, ADB's available resources in the form of subscribed capital stock amounted to $141 billion, and total equity in the ADB increased to $57.2 billion. Outstanding loan balance amounted to $156.3 billion that supported operations in developing member countries. Outstanding borrowing amounted to $160.8 billion in bond issues and private placements.

In September 2023, ADB reviewed and updated its Capital Adequacy Framework, which significantly expanded ADB's lending capacity using its existing capital base. Building on the review, ADB prepared the Capital Utilization Plan in February 2025, which outlined a pathway for increasing ADB's annual financing commitments from $24 billion in 2024 to exceed $36 billion by 2034.

In May 2024, donors and ADB agreed to a record replenishment of $5 billion for ADB's ADF 14 and Technical Assistance Special Fund 8 (TASF 8). ADF 14 will support grant operations from 2025 to 2028 and will continue to play a critical role in supporting the poorest and most vulnerable developing member countries. ADF 14 will prioritize dedicated assistance to small island developing states and countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations. It will provide support for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, regional cooperation and regional public goods, and transformative gender action, and provide aid in the event of emergencies. In parallel, ADB will provide $16.7 billion in concessional loans with low interest rates over long repayment periods during the ADF 14 period.

ADB's technical assistance is provided through the TASF and other special funds managed by the bank, such as the Climate Change Fund, Financial Sector Development Partnership Special Fund, Regional Cooperation and Integration Fund, and Japan Special Fund. Technical assistance grants are used for preparing projects, developing capacity, providing policy advice and fostering research and development.

ADB also manages grant funds and loans financed by bilateral and multilateral financing partners to pursue objectives mutually agreed between the financing partner and ADB. It also has a channel financing facility for grants provided by bilateral donors to support technical assistance and soft components of loans.

Headquartered in the Philippines, ADB also has offices across Asia and the Pacific, as well as representative offices in Europe, Japan and the USA. To learn more about the bank's operations, see the ADB Annual Report 2024.

Structure

ADB's highest policy-making body is its Board of Governors, which comprises one representative from each member and meets annually. The Governors elect the 12-member resident Board of Directors, with each director appointing an alternate. The President is elected by the Board of Governors for a five-year term and may be re-elected. The President is Chair of the Board of Directors and, assisted by six vice-presidents, manages ADB's business under the general oversight of the Board of Directors. Details about the Board of Governors and Board of Directors are on the website under 'Who We Are', then 'Organization'.

The total voting power of each ADB member consists of basic votes (distributed equally among all members) plus proportional votes (allocated according to the number of shares of ADB capital stock held by the member). In total, the number of basic votes allocated comprises 20 percent of all votes.

Membership

Membership is open to members and associate members of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and other regional countries and non-regional developed countries that are members of the UN or any of its specialized agencies. The ADB has 69 members, of which 50 are regional members and 19 non-regional members. A list of members is on the website.

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

PO Box 408
Wildey, St Michael
Barbados, WI BB11000

Telephone: +1 246 539 1600
Email: info@caribank.org

Website: www.caribank.org
President and Chair of Board of Directors: Daniel M Best (elected by the Board of Governors in December 2024 for a five-year term from February 2025)

Purpose

CDB is a regional financial institution established in 1970 to contribute to the harmonious economic growth and development of its member countries in the Caribbean and to promote economic cooperation and integration among them. CDB is required to have special and urgent regard to the needs of its less developed member countries. It provides loans, equity, guarantees and technical assistance for both the public and private sectors of regional borrowing member countries.

CDB's lending activities are divided into two major categories: Ordinary Operations and Special Operations. Ordinary Operations are financed from CDB's Ordinary Capital Resources (OCR), which include capital subscriptions from its members, reserves, and market borrowings on the international capital markets, as well as loans from other multilateral development banks.

Special Operations are financed by the Special Funds Resources (SFR), which primarily comprise contributions and loans on highly concessionary terms. These resources are used to provide technical assistance or to make or guarantee loans of high developmental priority. SFR loans have longer maturities, longer deferred commencement of repayment of principal and lower interest rates than those determined for Ordinary Operations. The Special Development Fund is the Bank's main special fund. Non-member contributors to CDB's resources have included the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden and the USA.

Structure

CDB is owned by 28 member countries: 23 regional members, divided into 19 borrowing countries and four non-borrowing countries; and five non-regional non-borrowing members. The voting power of each country is linked to its subscription to CDB's capital stock. CDB's capital stock is held or available for subscription in the proportion of not less than 60 percent by regional members and not more than 40 percent by non-regional members.

CDB's Board of Governors comprises one governor for each member country. For this purpose, the member territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands are regarded as one member. Voting power is approximately proportional to shares subscribed.

The Board of Directors comprises 19 directors, 14 representing regional members and five representing non-regional members. Directors hold office for two-year terms and are eligible for reappointment. Details about the Board of Governors and Board of Directors are available on the website.

Meetings

The Board of Governors meets once a year, and the Board of Directors five times a year. Additional or special meetings may also be called, if necessary, and participation is permitted via videoconferencing. In some cases, decisions may be taken without a meeting using a round robin procedure.

Membership

CDB membership is open to regional states and territories, non-regional states that are members of the UN, its specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Institutions. A list of member countries is on the website.

BUDGET AND SCALES OF ASSESSMENT

BUDGET AND SCALES OF ASSESSMENT

UN BUDGET

The main resolutions governing the preparation, approval and implementation of the UN programme budget are set forth in General Assembly resolutions 41/213 (1986), 42/211 (1987), 45/248 (1990), 55/231 (2000) and 58/269 (2004).

In GA res. 72/266 (2017), the Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposal to change the UN budget cycle from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020, pending a final decision at its 77th session on whether to continue that practice. In GA res. 77/267 (2022), the Assembly decided to lift the trial period effective from 2023 and requested the Secretary-General to continue with the submission of the programme budget according to an annual cycle.

The budget for the year 2025 was adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2024 through GA res. 79/259 A–C (approving the Fifth Committee's report A/79/652) as follows:

(US dollars)

Part I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination

1.	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	98,203,000
2.	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	400,800,700
	Total, Part I	**499,003,700**

Part II. Political affairs

3.	Political affairs	733,971,900
4.	Disarmament	19,127,700
5.	Peacekeeping operations	61,027,000
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	5,543,000
	Total, Part II	**819,669,600**

Part III. International justice and law

7.	International Court of Justice	34,661,600
8.	Legal affairs	70,082,500
	Total, Part III	**104,744,100**

Part IV. International cooperation for development

9.	Economic and social affairs	106,596,500
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states	11,184,800
11.	United Nations support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want	10,735,800
12.	Trade and development	89,995,000
13.	International Trade Centre	23,376,800
14.	Environment	24,501,100
15.	Human settlements	15,055,000
16.	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	27,765,000
17.	UN-Women	11,443,400
	Total, Part IV	**320,653,400**

Part V. Regional cooperation for development

18.	Economic and social development in Africa	94,922,900
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	58,498,400
20.	Economic development in Europe	40,951,800
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	62,821,700
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	51,152,200
23.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	49,706,000
	Total, Part V	**358,053,000**

Part VI. Human rights and humanitarian affairs

24.	Human rights	258,004,600
25.	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	50,466,900
26.	Palestine refugees	84,315,400
27.	Humanitarian assistance	20,278,500
	Total, Part VI	**413,065,400**

Part VII. Global communications

28.	Global communications	123,446,300
	Total, Part VII	**123,446,300**

Part VIII. Common support services

29A.	Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance	68,358,900
29B.	Department of Operational Support	101,043,900
29C.	Office of Information and Communications Technology	55,389,600
29D.	Administration, Nairobi	23,512,300
29E.	Administration, Geneva	90,283,800
29F.	Administration, Vienna	22,314,600
	Total, Part VIII	**360,903,100**

Part IX. Internal oversight

30.	Internal oversight	26,342,800
	Total, Part IX	**26,342,800**

Part X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses

31.	Jointly financed administrative activities	9,137,300
32.	Special expenses	97,258,700
	Total, Part X	**106,396,000**

Part XI. Capital expenditures

33.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	88,020,500
	Total, Part XI	**88,020,500**

Part XII. Safety and security

34.	Safety and security	150,739,400
	Total, Part XII	**150,739,400**

Part XIII. Development Account

35.	Development Account	19,011,900
	Total, Part XIII	**19,011,900**

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Part XIV. Staff assessment

36.	Staff assessment	327,330,400
	Total, Part XIV	327,330,400
	Grand total	**3,717,379,600**

By the same resolution (79/259 A–C), the General Assembly approved estimates of income other than assessments on Member States totalling $364,273,100 as follows:

Income section

1.	Income from staff assessment	329,472,000
2.	General income	34,090,300
3.	Services to the public	710,800
	Total, Income Section	364,273,100

SCALES OF ASSESSMENT

UN Regular Budget

Contributions from Member States to the UN regular budget are determined by reference to a scale of assessments approved by the General Assembly on the basis of advice from the Committee on Contributions.

GA res. 55/5B (2000) substantially revised the scale of assessments, lowering the ceiling on the maximum contribution by any Member State to the regular budget to 22 percent. It reaffirmed the floor for the minimum contribution at 0.001 percent and the maximum contribution from Least Developed Countries at 0.01 percent. It also reaffirmed the low per capita income adjustment with a threshold per capita income limit of the average per capita gross national product of all Member States and a gradient of 80 percent.

GA res. 79/249 (2024) set out the scale of assessments for 2025, 2026 and 2027. The scale of assessments will be reviewed by the General Assembly before the end of 2027.

The following table lists the scale of assessments for contributions to the regular budget for the period 2025–27.*

Member States percentage contribution

Member State	Percentage	Member State	Percentage
Afghanistan	0.005	Barbados	0.007
Albania	0.010	Belarus	0.043
Algeria	0.087	Belgium	0.773
Andorra	0.004	Belize	0.001
Angola	0.010	Benin	0.005
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	Bhutan	0.001
Argentina	0.490	Bolivia	0.018
Armenia	0.007	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.014
Australia	2.040	Botswana	0.013
Austria	0.626	Brazil	1.411
Azerbaijan	0.034	Brunei Darussalam	0.019
Bahamas	0.015	Bulgaria	0.071
Bahrain	0.050	Burkina Faso	0.005
Bangladesh	0.010	Burundi	0.001

Cabo Verde	0.001
Cambodia	0.008
Cameroon	0.014
Canada	2.543
Central African Republic	0.001
Chad	0.005
Chile	0.374
China	20.004
Colombia	0.197
Comoros	0.001
Congo	0.005
Costa Rica	0.063
Côte d'Ivoire	0.024
Croatia	0.088
Cuba	0.122
Cyprus	0.035
Czechia	0.344
DPRK	0.005
DR Congo	0.010
Denmark	0.531
Djibouti	0.002
Dominica	0.001
Dominican Republic	0.069
Ecuador	0.065
Egypt	0.182
El Salvador	0.013
Equatorial Guinea	0.008
Eritrea	0.001
Estonia	0.045
Eswatini	0.002
Ethiopia	0.010
Fiji	0.003
Finland	0.386
France	3.858
Gabon	0.011
Gambia	0.001
Georgia	0.009
Germany	5.692
Ghana	0.025
Greece	0.280
Grenada	0.001
Guatemala	0.046
Guinea	0.004
Guinea-Bissau	0.001
Guyana	0.011
Haiti	0.006
Honduras	0.010
Hungary	0.223
Iceland	0.035
India	1.106
Indonesia	0.579
Iran	0.386
Iraq	0.131
Ireland	0.472
Israel	0.609
Italy	2.813
Jamaica	0.007
Japan	6.930
Jordan	0.021
Kazakhstan	0.131
Kenya	0.037
Kiribati	0.001
Kuwait	0.222
Kyrgyzstan	0.003
Lao PDR	0.006
Latvia	0.050
Lebanon	0.022
Lesotho	0.001
Liberia	0.001
Libya	0.040
Liechtenstein	0.009
Lithuania	0.081
Luxembourg	0.073
Madagascar	0.004
Malawi	0.003
Malaysia	0.326
Maldives	0.004
Mali	0.005
Malta	0.020
Marshall Islands	0.001
Mauritania	0.003
Mauritius	0.010
Mexico	1.137
Micronesia	0.001
Monaco	0.011
Mongolia	0.004
Montenegro	0.004
Morocco	0.059
Mozambique	0.002
Myanmar	0.010
Namibia	0.007
Nauru	0.001

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Nepal	0.010	Slovenia	0.077
Netherlands	1.298	Solomon Islands	0.001
New Zealand	0.302	Somalia	0.002
Nicaragua	0.004	South Africa	0.251
Niger	0.004	South Sudan	0.005
Nigeria	0.150	Spain	1.895
North Macedonia	0.008	Sri Lanka	0.038
Norway	0.653	Sudan	0.008
Oman	0.115	Suriname	0.002
Pakistan	0.123	Sweden	0.822
Palau	0.001	Switzerland	1.029
Panama	0.086	Syrian AR	0.006
Papua New Guinea	0.009	Tajikistan	0.003
Paraguay	0.023	Thailand	0.341
Peru	0.145	Timor-Leste	0.001
Philippines	0.198	Togo	0.002
Poland	0.831	Tonga	0.001
Portugal	0.328	Trinidad and Tobago	0.033
Qatar	0.245	Tunisia	0.018
ROK	2.349	Türkiye	0.685
Republic of Moldova	0.006	Turkmenistan	0.036
Romania	0.358	Tuvalu	0.001
Russian Federation	2.094	Uganda	0.010
Rwanda	0.003	Ukraine	0.074
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	UAE	0.574
Saint Lucia	0.002	UK	3.991
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	UR of Tanzania	0.010
Samoa	0.001	USA	22.000
San Marino	0.002	Uruguay	0.079
São Tomé and Príncipe	0.001	Uzbekistan	0.024
Saudi Arabia	1.217	Vanuatu	0.001
Senegal	0.007	Venezuela	0.069
Serbia	0.040	Viet Nam	0.159
Seychelles	0.002	Yemen	0.003
Sierra Leone	0.001	Zambia	0.006
Singapore	0.479	Zimbabwe	0.007
Slovakia	0.149	Total	100.000

Note

* In accordance with GA res. 58/1B (2003) the Holy See, which is not a member of the UN but which participates in some of its activities, is called upon to contribute towards the expenses of the organization for 2025–27 on the basis of a notional assessment rate of 0.001 percent that would have been charged if it were a member. Similarly, in accordance with GA decision 68/548 (2013) and GA res. 73/271 (2018), the State of Palestine, which is not a member of the UN but which participates in some of its activities, is called upon to contribute towards the expenses of the organization for 2025–27 on the basis of a notional assessment rate of 0.011 percent that would have been charged if it were a member.

AD HOC SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR UN PEACEKEEPING BUDGETS

By GA res. 55/235 (2000), the General Assembly reformed its methodologies for apportioning the expenses of peacekeeping operations, replacing the ad hoc arrangements in place since GA res. 3101 (XXVIII) (1973). The Assembly took into account that the financing of peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of Member States and a different procedure was required from that used under the regular budget. The economically more developed countries were in a position to make relatively larger contributions and the economically less developed countries had a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such operations. It also reaffirmed the special responsibilities of the Security Council's permanent Member States, as indicated in GA res. 1874 (S-IV) (1963), in connection with their contributions to the financing of peace and security operations.

To reflect these principles, the Assembly decided on the parameters of a new set of 10 levels for Member States for the purposes of apportioning the costs of peacekeeping, to be implemented on a phased basis from 1 July 2001. The resulting distribution of Member States among the 10 levels was set out in an annex to the resolution. The apportionments range from a premium payable by permanent Member States of the Security Council (Level A), to a 90 percent discount for Least Developed Countries (Level J).

GA res. 79/250 (2024) established the updated composition of levels of contribution for peacekeeping operations for the period 2025–27, as outlined in the report to the Secretary-General (see A/79/318/Add.1). The scale of assessments for peacekeeping will be reviewed by the General Assembly before the end of 2027.

Assignment of contribution levels 2025–27

Level A – Permanent Members of the Security Council

China	Russian Federation	USA
France	UK	

Level B

Andorra	Iceland	Norway
Australia	Ireland	Portugal
Austria	Israel	ROK
Bahamas[1]	Italy	San Marino
Bahrain[1]	Japan	Saudi Arabia[1]
Belgium	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Canada	Luxembourg	Spain
Cyprus	Malta	Sweden
Denmark	Monaco	Switzerland
Finland	Netherlands	
Germany	New Zealand	

Transition to B

Czechia	Estonia

Level C

Brunei Darussalam	Qatar	UAE
Kuwait	Singapore	

Level E

Greece	Lithuania	Slovakia
Latvia	Saint Kitts and Nevis	

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Level F

Antigua and Barbuda
Barbados
Hungary
Nauru
Oman
Palau
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay

Level G

Chile
Croatia
Panama
Poland

Level H*[2]

Bulgaria
Romania

Level H

Costa Rica
Seychelles

Level I

Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belize
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
DPRK
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eswatini
Fiji
Gabon
Georgia
Ghana
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Libya
Malaysia
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Namibia
Nicaragua
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Pakistan
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Republic of Moldova
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
Serbia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Suriname
Syrian AR
Tajikistan
Thailand
Tonga
Tunisia
Türkiye
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe

Level J – Least Developed Countries

Afghanistan
Angola
Bangladesh
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
DR Congo
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Kiribati
Lao PDR
Lesotho
Liberia
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nepal
Niger
Rwanda
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Timor-Leste
Togo
Tuvalu
Uganda
UR of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia

Notes

1 At the time of the adoption of GA res. 79/250 (2024), the Fifth Committee Chair and General Assembly President stated that it was the understanding of the Assembly that, on an exceptional basis for the 2025–27 scale period only, three countries in level B – the Bahamas, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia – would be afforded discounts of 7.5 percent to their assessment rates, and that these discounts should be borne on a pro rata basis by the permanent members of the Security Council. See A/C.5/79/SR.22/Add.1 and A/79/PV.55.

2 Category H* comprises countries that have voluntarily moved to category H and pay at a level of 30 percent rather than 20 percent.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

LIST OF ACRONYMS

A

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
AUC	AU Commission

B

BBNJ	Biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction
BINUH	UN Integrated Office in Haiti

C

C24	Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
C34	Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
CAAC	Children and Armed Conflict
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CAR	Central African Republic
CAT	Committee against Torture
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCO	Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (UNAIDS)
CCPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
CD	Conference on Disarmament
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
CEB	UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CED	Committee on Enforced Disappearances
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CEPA	Committee of Experts on Public Administration
CEPAL	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish acronym)
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLCS	Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
CMP	Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (for the Kyoto Protocol)
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CMW	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CND	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
COP	Conference of the Parties
COPUOS	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
CPD	Commission on Population and Development
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CSocD	Commission for Social Development
CSTD	Commission on Science and Technology for Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
CTBTO	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization
CTC	Counter-Terrorism Committee
CTED	Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate
CWC	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction

D

DCO	Development Coordination Office
DDPA	Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DGACM	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management
DGC	Department of Global Communications
DMSPC	Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
DOS	Department of Operational Support
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPO	Department of Peace Operations
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea

E

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECCC	Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDG	Emergency Directors Group
EMRIP	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
EMRTD	Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
EOSG	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union

F

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FARC-EP	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FTFs	Foreign terrorist fighters

G

G5-Sahel	Group of Five for the Sahel
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GP	Global Platform (for Disaster Risk Reduction)

H

HLCM	High-Level Committee on Management
HLCP	High-Level Committee on Programmes
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HONLEA	Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies
HRC	Human Rights Council
HRCAC	Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

I

IAAC	Independent Audit Advisory Committee
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSID	International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
ICT	Information and communications technology
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IDA	International Development Association
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEE	Group of Independent Eminent Experts
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IIIM	International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011
IIMM	Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar
IIMP	Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic
ILC	International Law Commission
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IP	Intellectual property
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRMCT	International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals
ISA	International Seabed Authority
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITLOS	International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
ITU	International Telecommunication Union

J

JIU	Joint Inspection Unit

L

LDCs	Least developed countries
LLDCs	Landlocked developing countries

M

MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MINUJUSTH	UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti
MINURSO	UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSCA	UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
MONUSCO	UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOP	Meeting of the Parties

N

NGO	Non-governmental organization
NSGTs	Non-self-governing territories

O

OAJ	Office of Administration of Justice
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OCR	Ordinary capital resources
ODET	Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFFMK	OHCHR Fact-Finding Mission on the situation in the North and South Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OLA	Office of Legal Affairs
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSAA	Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
OSES	Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel
OSLA	Office of Staff Legal Assistance
OSRSG-CAAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
OSRSG-SVC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
OSRSG-VAC	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
OVRA	Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate

P

PBC	Peacebuilding Commission
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office

R

RA	Radiocommunication Assembly (ITU)
RSCSL	Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone

S

SCSL	Special Court for Sierra Leone
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small island developing states
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SPMs	Special political missions

SPT	Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture
SRSG-CAAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
SRSG-SVC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
SRSG-VAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

T

TDB	Trade and Development Board
TDG	Transport of Dangerous Goods

U

UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNAIDS	UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, Joint
UNAKRT	UN Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials
UNAMA	UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	UN Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAOC	UN Alliance of Civilizations
UNAT	UN Appeals Tribunal
UNC	UN Command (in Korea)
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa
UNCCT	UN Counter-Terrorism Centre
UNCDF	UN Capital Development Fund
UNCED	UN Conference on Environment and Development
UNCITRAL	UN Commission on International Trade Law
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCMAC	UN Command Military Armistice Commission
UNCSGN	UN Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names
UNCTAD	UN Trade and Development
UNDC	UN Disarmament Commission
UNDEF	UN Democracy Fund
UNDOF	UN Disengagement Observer Force
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNDRR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDSS	UN Department of Safety and Security
UNDT	UN Dispute Tribunal
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	UN Forum on Forests
UNFICYP	UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNFIP	UN Fund for International Partnerships
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNGEGN	UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names
UN-GGIM	UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
UN-Habitat	UN Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Office of the
UNHQ	UN Headquarters
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNICRI	UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNIDIR	UN Institute for Disarmament Research

UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	UN Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	UN Interim Security Force for Abyei
UNISPAL	UN Information System on the Question of Palestine
UNITAMS	UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
UNJSPF	UN Joint Staff Pension Fund
UNMAS	UN Mine Action Service
UNMHA	UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement
UNMIK	UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMISS	UN Mission in South Sudan
UNMOGIP	UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNOAU	UN Office to the African Union
UNOCA	UN Regional Office for Central Africa
UNOCT	UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODA	UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOG	UN Office at Geneva
UN-OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
UNOMS	UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services
UNON	UN Office at Nairobi
UNOOSA	UN Office for Outer Space Affairs
UNOP	UN Office for Partnerships
UNOPS	UN Office for Project Services
UNOV	UN Office at Vienna
UNOWA	UN Office for West Africa
UNOWAS	UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel
UNPFII	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UNRCCA	UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
UNRISD	UN Research Institute for Social Development
UNRoD	UN Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNSCEAR	UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation
UNSCO	UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Office of the
UNSCOL	UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Office of the
UNSDG	UN Sustainable Development Group
UNSMIL	UN Support Mission in Libya
UNSMS	UN Security Management System
UNSOM	UN Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSSC	UN System Staff College
UNTMIS	UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia
UN Tourism	UN World Tourism Organization
UNTSO	UN Truce Supervision Organization
UNU	United Nations University
UNV	UN Volunteers
UN-Women	UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPOV	International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UPU	Universal Postal Union

V

VRA	Victims' Rights Advocate

W

WEDF	World Export Development Forum
WEOG	Western European and Other states group
WFP	World Food Programme
WGC	Working Group on Communications
WGS	Working Group on Situations
WHC	World Heritage Centre
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMDs	Weapons of mass destruction
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WRC	World Radiocommunication Conference
WTDC	World Telecommunication Development Conference
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTPO	World Trade Promotion Organizations (Conference)
WTSA	World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly

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Australian Government

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

At a time of unprecedented change and challenge for our world, this handbook is an invaluable guide to the inner workings of the United Nations. As the UN marks its 80th anniversary, I am grateful to New Zealand and Australia for their unwavering commitment to multilateralism and the vital project of peace. Readers old and new will find this year's edition as indispensable as ever.

António Guterres
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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